

WHO ARE WE?

Group Name: We have no official name--nor do we want one--however we provide the following: INTERDEPENDENT-INTERACTIVE, CHURCH OF GOD, SABBATH SERVICES, BIBLE STUDIES, AND OPEN FELLOWSHIP.

Address: 320 N. Griffin St. City: Bismarck State: ND Zip Code: 58501

Country: USA Phone: (701) 258-7172 FAX: (919) 640-1806

E-Mail: darwin-laura@earthlink.net

Website: <http://darwinlauralee.150m.com>

Leadership Body: Christ the Head of God's Church, Colossians 1:18, Ephesians 5:23, and I Corinthians 11:3. Local contact persons are Darwin or Laura Lee.

Purpose: To provide Interdependent-Interactive, Church of God, Sabbath Services and Bible Studies to all of God's People, including those who are not welcome to visit or attend other groups due to having been suspended or disfellowshipped, as well as those who want a place to attend weekly, those who are just visiting our area, and anyone else who is interested in God's way of living. We also have open fellowship here, meaning that you are welcome to come visit with us during our open fellowship times even if you are not interested in attending our Sabbath Services or Bible Studies.

History: We held our first Bible Study here on June 30, 2000 and our first Sabbath Service was held on December 16, 2000.

Affiliation/Membership: Our Affiliation is with God our Father and His Son Jesus the Christ. Our membership includes *all* of God's people, no matter where they are.

Distinctive Doctrines: John 13:34-35

Use Sacred Names?: Since salvation is between God and each individual (Philippians 2:12), so the use of sacred names would be between each individual person and God.

Observe Holy Days?: We believe that God commands us to keep the Weekly Sabbath as well as Passover/Days of Unleavened Bread, Pentecost, Feast of Trumpets, Atonement, Feast of Tabernacles, and the Last Great Day, however, we also believe there is much controversy out there in understanding if certain ones should or shouldn't be kept, how to keep them and when to keep them. So with this in mind, we will try to the best of our ability to accommodate these differences, believing and having faith that someday through God's Holy Spirit, we will all be brought into the same understanding on this subject. Until then let's follow John 13:34-35.

Evangelistic Efforts: We provide a service to God's People no matter where they are to the best of our ability. This service includes Interdependent-Interactive, Church of God, Sabbath Services, Bible Studies and Open Fellowship. We also welcome live speakers for interactive, and special music, on a volunteer only basis.

Periodicals: We have a newsletter, which we publish every 2 months.

Literature: We distribute some literature besides the distribution of newsletters to the best of our ability.

Parent Group: The greater Church of God--The Ekklesia. Language: English

Other Language: None Country: USA

Name: Contact Persons are Darwin & Laura Lee Address: 320 N. Griffin St.

City: Bismarck State: North Dakota Zip Code: 58501

Phone: (701) 258-7172 E-Mail: darwin-laura@earthlink.net

Directions To Meeting: 320 N. Griffin St., Bismarck, North Dakota, located at the corner of Rosser Avenue and Griffin Street, with plenty of side street parking.

Time of Meeting: Usually 1:00 PM, but may vary.

SABBATH SERVICES--Every Saturday unless stated other wise on page 2. We generally do a phone hookup, video tape, or cassette tape, service with various speakers. If you have a video or audio tape you think we should hear, please send it.

We also welcome live speakers, and special music, by others on a volunteer basis. Please ask us about hosting.

Sabbath Schedule is as follows:

12:00 Noon--Open Fellowship
(Door Open, Come In)

1:00 PM----Sabbath Services

3:00 PM----Open Fellowship

BIBLE STUDIES--We have Bible Studies approximately every 6 weeks. We have a Pot Luck Meal before we start our Bible Studies, so please bring food if you would like to participate in the fellowship, which goes with a meal.

Bible Study Schedule is as follows:

6:30 PM----Open Fellowship
(Door Open, Come In)

7:00 PM----Pot Luck Meal
(Bring Food)

8:00 PM----Bible Study

9:00 PM----Open Fellowship

Bible Study Dates are as follows:

Friday, September 9, 2005

Friday, December 2, 2005

Friday, January 13, 2006

GUEST ROOM--If you are from out of town and are here to attend Sabbath Services or one of our Bible Studies, we do have a guest room. Please call ahead so we know when you will be arriving. (701) 258-7172 (Please Leave a message.)

LOCATION--Sabbath Services and Bible Studies are held at the home of Darwin & Laura Lee, located at 320 N. Griffin St., Bismarck, North Dakota. Please use the upper back door by the garage. Phone Number (701) 258-7172 (Please Leave a message.)

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE--The deadline for submitting articles and letters for possible inclusion in our November/December 2005 Newsletter is October 15, 2005. Thank You. Laura Lee (Editor)

AD SECTION

newsletter-only-darwin-laura@earthlink.net

NOTICE: We do not necessarily agree with everything printed in this newsletter. If you do not agree with items printed within this newsletter, we expect to hear from you. Remember iron sharpens iron. Darwin & Laura Lee

SABBATH SCHEDULE--BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA

August 20, 2005----Open for Hosting--Please Sign Up

August 27, 2005----**Teaching the Law-- Lesson #88**-- The Identity of the True Church (Part 62) Acts 19:21, Paul's journey to Jerusalem (God/Israel's headquarters); Acts 20:17-24, Paul's last warning message to elders of Ephesus/other areas; Acts 22:1-23, Paul brings offerings to temple/priests of Israel, addresses Jerusalem; Acts 23, Paul's address to Sanhedrin/Council; Acts 21:17-20, Paul meets apostles and headquarters congregation.----**Teaching the Law-- Lesson #89**-- The Identity of the True Church (Part 63) Acts 21:20-26, Paul's meeting with James; Acts 23:6-10, Paul's address to council; Acts 24:10-27, Paul's defense before Felix, speaks of hope and "Way" of Israel; Acts 25, Paul defends "the Way" before Festus.

September 3, 2005----Open for Hosting--Please Sign Up

September 9, 2005----Bible Study Night

September 10, 2005----**Teaching the Law-- Lesson 90**-- The Identity of the True Church (Part 64) Acts 26, Paul's defense of "the Way" before Agrippa; Acts 27:9, Paul keeps Day of Atonement; Acts 28:14-30, Paul meets brethren, not "Christians," calls in the Jewish leaders and speaks to them of "the Way", Biblical Judaism, Hope of Israel.----**Teaching the Law-- Lesson 91**-- The Identity of the True Church (Part 65) Acts 28:17-31, Paul addresses Jewish community and leaders of Rome; Romans 2 and 3, Paul admonishes Jewish community and grafted Gentiles concerning God's Torah, obedience, circumcision and justification.

September 17, 2005----Open for Hosting--Please Sign Up

September 24, 2005----**Teaching the Law-- Lesson 92**-- The Identity of the True Church (Part 66) Romans 3, Paul's admonition to Jew/Gentile; Romans 4, Paul's teaching of total concept of Torah, legal and moral code, grace, faith, justification; Romans 6:23, wages of sin-transgression of Torah and consequent death; Romans 7:7-25, Paul promotes obedience to Torah; Romans 9, in spite of shortcomings, all Israel will be saved.----**Teaching the Law-- Lesson 93**-- The Identity of the True Church (Part 67) Romans 9, Paul's message to Gentiles: Israel is concluded only temporarily in unbelief, all Israel shall be saved, God never rejected His people/wife; Romans 10, Paul's yearning for salvation of Israel (the church) through faith and obedience.

October 1, 2005----Open for Hosting--Please Sign Up

October 4, 2005----**Feast of Trumpets** (See Details in the Ad Section)

October 8, 2005----**Teaching the Law-- Lesson 94**-- The Identity of the True Church (Part 68) Romans 11, Paul illuminates mistaken and boastful Gentiles of promised salvation of God's only true church - Israel; natural and wild olive branches, the church of God-Israel-blind only in part.----**Teaching the Law-- Lesson 95**-- The Identity of the True Church (Part 69) Romans 13:7-10, nature of love.; Romans 15:8-12, Christ the minister to the circumcision, came to confirm promises made to their fathers. This ministry opens door to Gentiles.; 1 Cor. 7:17-20, circumcision/uncircumcision nothing without obedience to Torah.; 1 Cor. 10-12, Israel first "Christians" who followed Christ in wilderness.

October 13, 2005----**Day of Atonement** (See Details in the Ad Section)

October 15, 2005----Open for Hosting--Please Sign Up

October 18, 2005----**Feast of Tabernacles** (October 18, 2005 to October 24, 2005) No Services Here.

October 22, 2005----No Services Here.

October 25, 2005----**Last Great Day** --- No Services Here.

October 29, 2005----**Teaching the Law-- Lesson 96**-- The Identity of the True Church (Part 70) 1 Cor. 10:12, do not ever think you have it made. ; 1 Cor. 12:1-3, grafted wild olive branches are no longer Gentiles.; 2Cor. 11:2-23, bride of the Lamb-Israel and those grafted in, Paul's warning against deceivers; Galatians 2, church doctrines vs. God's teachings, the two ministries to Jews/Gentiles, conflicts between two ministries, the nature of justification/faith.----**Teaching the Law-- Lesson 97**-- The Identity of the True Church (Part 71) Galatians 2:21, end result of obedience in faith.; Gal. 3:1-6, the faith of Abraham linked to obedience.; Gal. 4:21-31, obedience is not enough, must be mixed with faith.; Gal. 5:6-17, faith and obedience, love equates law abiding, battle between spirit and flesh.

November 5, 2005----Open for Hosting--Please Sign Up

If you want to host Sabbath Services and need 2 Sabbaths in a row for your presentation and/or would like to have your presentation listed on our Sabbath Schedule in our newsletter which is sent out to the public, the next deadline for that would be: October 15, 2005. On those Sabbaths of Open Hosting where no one signs up, we will just play a cassette tape by any of various speakers. All Sabbath Services are Hosted by Darwin & Laura Lee unless otherwise stated.

E-MAIL & SNAIL MAIL:

prayer-requests-darwin-laura@earthlink.net For Prayer Requests & Updates and letters in regard to them.

newsletter-only-darwin-laura@earthlink.net For items meant for print in our newsletter or on our web site.

questions-section-darwin-laura@earthlink.net To ask Biblical Questions (50 words or less) and to answer Biblical Questions.

answer-me-darwin-laura@earthlink.net For all letters.

darwin-laura@earthlink.net If you don't know where to send it, send it here and we will sort it.

archeology-exchange-darwin-laura@earthlink.net For the exchange of Archeological Information.

FAX--Our Fax number is: (919) 640-1806

SNAIL MAIL--Our snail mail address is Darwin & Laura Lee, PO Box 2333, Bismarck, ND 58502.

WEB SITE ADDRESS--<http://darwinlauralee.150m.com>

FINANCIAL DISCLOSER:

We do not charge for the services that we provide to the brethren. We also do not take any wages from the gift donations we are sent. The services we provide do however cost us money. From 2001 to 2004 our total balance left owing for expenses for services provided was **-\$5674.28**.

Donations for 2005 total **+\$1131.00**. Expenses for 2005 are as follows: Postage **-\$734.36**, Telephone **-\$8.55**, Internet Services **-\$241.06**, Printing Charges **-\$444.13**, Local Services **-\$46.93** and Research Materials **-\$29.06**. Total balance for 2005 is: **-\$373.09**.

Major computer problems --- purchase of new computer and 2G memory --- Total **-\$1842.78** Rebates & Rummage Sale Proceeds **+\$577.50** Total Left **-\$1265.28**

If you need a year end receipt, please request one. We truly appreciate the help we receive in helping others. Please make all checks out to Darwin and/or Laura Lee. Thank you Darwin & Laura Lee.

FEAST OF TRUMPETS--OCTOBER 4, 2005

Come join us at 1:00 PM at 320 N. Griffin St. in Bismarck, North Dakota (Fellowship starts at 12:00 PM)

Join us for a 5:00 PM meal at: Perkins Family Restaurant (Expressway Avenue) in Bismarck, North Dakota

ATONEMENT--OCTOBER 13, 2005

Come join us at 1:00 PM at 320 N. Griffin St. in Bismarck, North Dakota (Fellowship starts at 12:00 PM)

Join us for a meal at sunset at: Bonanza Family Restaurant in Mandan, North Dakota

FEAST OF TABERNACLES--OCTOBER 18-24, 2005

LAST GREAT DAY--OCTOBER 25, 2005

NO SABBATH SERVICES AT 320 N. Griffin St. in Bismarck, North Dakota on: October 18, 22 or 25, 2005

HAVE A GREAT FEAST!!!

Please see God's message by His Spirit (I John 4:1-3)

On our Web Site at: <http://www.piczo.com/placeofsafetychurch?>

AD --- Go to: <http://darwinlauralee.150m.com> under "Web Site Links" to find Alan Croyle's Web Site. This **AD** is posted as a courtesy and does not necessarily mean that we are in agreement with the views of Alan Croyle. Darwin & Laura Lee

ISRAEL'S TRIBES TODAY----BY STEVEN M. COLLINS

This fourth book of a series, Israel's Tribes Today, identifies the modern locations of the tribes of Israel, and it examines the migrations that brought them to their current locations. Modern world geopolitics will be seen in an entirely new light as a result.

Most efforts to locate the "lost" House of Israel have failed because of erroneous assumptions. Searchers assume that the supposedly "lost" ten tribes of Israel would be found in isolated little bands of people. However, the first chapter of Hosea and other Biblical prophecies foretold that the nations of the ten tribes would be found among the wealthy and powerful nations with large populations!

This book identifies the modern House of Israel as those nations descending from the Goths, Saxons, Germans and related peoples who migrated into Europe from Asia after the fall of Parthia and Scythia. They have enjoyed national prominence, power, and prosperity as the primary recipients of the divine "birthright" blessings of the Abrahamic Covenant. Many nations have Israelite roots, in whole or in part. Not only did they retain Semitic-Israelite names and customs, but many of the tribal and clan names of the ten tribes of Israel are found among them. This book presents exciting new research and over 140 maps, charts, and illustrations to provide convincing evidence concerning the Israelite origin of large modern nations.

The final portion of this book utilizes Biblical prophecies about the tribes of Israel, as well as evidence from secular history, to identify the descendants of each tribe in the modern world. Readers may marvel at how specifically the prophecies have been fulfilled among modern nations, and that these nations even now enjoy the promised blessings of the Abrahamic Covenant. With the substantial body of evidence laid out in this book, their Israelite origin and character is impossible to miss.

This book series expands upon Mr. Collins first book, The "Lost" Ten Tribes of Israel...Found! and reveals much new information about the tribes of Israel. They are fully indexed and contain a large number of photographs, illustrations, narratives and maps not in Mr. Collins' first book.

Ordering Information: Price: US\$20 each, plus postage & handling of \$4 economy or \$7 priority for up to two books. (Contact us for freight quote on quantity orders.) Website address: www.bibleblessings.net; Email: staff@bibleblessings.net; Bible Blessings, Box 1778, Royal Oak, MI 48068-1778 USA

AD --- Go to: <http://darwinlauralee.150m.com> under "Web Site Links" to find Steven M. Collins Web Site. This **AD** is posted as a courtesy and does not necessarily mean that we are in agreement with the views of Steven M. Collins. Darwin & Laura Lee

PORT AUSTIN BIBLE CAMPUS INFORMATION

The Port Austin Bible Campus is a non-denominational Christian community with the primary goal of providing biblical life skills to young people. The methods used at PABC are not traditional classroom schooling, but the method more commonly used by Elijah, Elisha, Jesus and His disciples in the Bible: working and living together to accomplish the desired goals.

PABC has dormitories for single men and women, and separate living units for families. A central dining hall is available, but some units also have kitchens. PABC has facilities for web site design, magazine production, printing, music recording, auto maintenance, culinary arts, construction, building maintenance, grounds maintenance and other areas for vocational training and working.

Year-round recreation facilities include a gym for basketball, volleyball and hockey; a racquetball court; a 2-lane bowling alley; and a game room. Outdoor facilities include a lighted baseball diamond, tennis courts, volleyball, horseshoe pits, a campfire pit and a playground. PABC is only a mile away from a public beach and marina on Lake Huron.

Many young Christians know that they would like to meet and live among like-minded people and that they would like to leave their parents and be on their own. But they frequently have not settled on specifically how they will serve God, the kind of job they will have or the course of education that might be best. PABC is a place where they can receive necessary guidance, but still be largely independent. They will have a chance to work at a variety of necessary tasks to determine which ones they like and which ones they do not. Skilled adults on campus will be able to help them gain information in their areas of interest.

In college, people study for years, usually forget most of what they learn, and then find a job where they are expected to produce. In the community setting, people are expected to produce as they learn. Community members are not clearly separated into "students" and "teachers", but most will take on both roles at times, learning where they need to, and instructing where they have experience.

PABC does not have specific semesters or terms. Some people will come for a few months, some for a few years. They may stay as long as they and the community are benefiting one another.

While specific ministry and vocational skills will certainly be taught at PABC, the main emphasis will be on basic life skills teaching a successful Christian way of life. For more information contact Norman Edwards at: (989) 738-7700 or pabc@portAustin.net

INFORMATION SECTION

newsletter-only-darwin-laura@earthlink.net

Big Trouble Brewing Between the United States and the European Union

Sent by David Ben-Ariel
Toledo, Ohio

The rift between the U.S. and the E.U. grows daily, and politico-religious differences could lead to military surprises and blitzkrieg betrayals with global impact.

(PRWEB) December 27, 2004 -- France and Germany's rejection of the United States' lead in the war to liberate Iraq, is only the tip of the iceberg of America's estrangement from former allies. America's solitary confinement, our frightening isolation, has only just begun - according to author David Ben-Ariel - and threatens to grow deeper as the distance between our world views grows wider.

The United States is in for a rude awakening: Europe wants to go it alone and will pursue their "Grand Design" of European Unification without us. Yet Europe condemns America for unilateral actions. America has been the chief architect of a German-dominated Europe, and now that the Frankenstein is ready for lightning to shock it into being, the United States is no longer needed and could actually become the first victim of such a monstrous creation. The Balkans sparked Germany's return to military power in Europe and the injustices against the Orthodox Serbs will seem tame to what lies in store.

Europe and the United States are on a collision course. The continental drift continues despite pretty political platitudes, and spiritual fissures increase behind diplomatic smiles. *Beyond Babylon: Europe's Rise and Fall* is determined to bring what's going on in the dark out into the open for national debate and international discussion.

AD --- Go to:

<http://darwinlauralee.150m.com> under "Web Site Links" to find David Ben-Ariel's Web Site. This AD is posted as a courtesy and does not necessarily mean that we are in agreement with the views of David Ben-Ariel. Darwin & Laura Lee

THE END**

General Mills Cereal

Sent by Ed Burson
Big Sandy, Texas

I am writing to inquire what type of gelatin (if any) is used in your products. Specifically, if it is Type A (pork derived) or Type B (beef derived). Please advise:

CONFIRMED:

All General Mills' cereal products DO CONTAIN Type A gelatin (derived from Pork).

I'm trying to find ingredient lists online, but cannot find many. If it's frosted, then it surely has gelatin. So, "Frosted Cheerios" are bad. (Sorry Moms. If you have babies, give them the cheerios that aren't frosted).

Below is the response from Consumer Service department of General Mills:

Dear Mr. Graves,

Thank you for contacting General Mills with your inquiry. The gelatin used in General Mills cereals is derived from pork skins.

We hope you find this information helpful. Please let us know if we can help you again.

Sincerely,
Gerald Vanberg
General Mills
Consumer Services

AD --- Go to:

<http://darwinlauralee.150m.com> under "Web Site Links" to find Ed Burson's Web Site. This AD is posted as a courtesy and does not necessarily mean that we are in agreement with the views of Ed Burson. Darwin & Laura Lee

THE END**

The Days of Unleavened Bread in Tulsa, Oklahoma

by Doyle Carter
Tulsa, Oklahoma

On April 24 of 2005 which was The First Day of Unleavened Bread, the Tulsa Church of God and Church of God Tulsa Fellowship had a combined service for this Holy Day.

Services began at 1pm and Ron Kolb led the group with two songs then with opening prayer.

Pastor Lawrence Gregory presented the sermonette entitled "A Pillar of a Cloud, a Pillar of Fire" which covered the travels of Israel in the wilderness and how God went with them in a pillar of fire by night and a pillar of a cloud by day. He revealed many lessons that can be learned from this event such as how God showed his love toward them by leading them and protecting them.

Of course, there was an offering taken up as tradition in the Church of God. Steve Andrews performed this part of the service and used **Deuteronomy 16:3, 16** as reference scriptures.

Then the Fellowship Choir presented two songs entitled "Turn Your Face From Sin" and "Continue to Seek Ye the Lord." Pastor Ray Kurr sang solo with the choir as back up. It was a very good performance.

The main sermon was by Barnabas Grayson entitled "Christ, The Bread of Life" which covered the importance of bread in the Egyptian's life and the lack of faith of the Hebrews. And, of course, the main fact that Jesus Christ referred to himself as "the Bread of Life." It was a well organized and presented sermon.

After sermons, there was a potluck which almost everyone stayed for and there was plenty of food for all.

It was very enjoyable and a meaningful church day for all who came.

On April 30 of 2005 which was the Last Day of Unleavened Bread, I again attended the Tulsa Church of God for Holy Days services. It was not a combined service, but still was very enjoyable.

At 1pm services started with usual song and prayer.

The sermonette was by Barnabas Grayson entitled "Famine of the Word" which covered this topic based on Amos 8:11. It covered how many in this country do not seem to be concerned about morals and many Bible teachings.

Then the special music by one of the members called "Welcome to Our World."

After which Steve Andrews presented a sermon entitled "Christ in You- The Hope of Glory" which covered how we can be puffed up by our sin and the many tricks that Satan may use on us to fall from the grace of God such temptation as stated in **James 1:12**.

After services, there was a potluck meal and fellowship for a few hours. Many that attended the potluck shared the many

concepts that they learned during these days.

THE END



The Journal Exclusive News Bulletin:

Statement by acquaintance of Brookfield gunman shows shootings were premeditated

by Dixon Cartwright Big Sandy, Texas



An acquaintance of 44-year-old Terry Ratzmann of New Berlin, Wis., who killed seven worshipers at a Living Church of God Sabbath service March 12, says he warned her that the Brookfield, Wis., Sheraton hotel would soon be in the news.

Mr. Ratzmann shot 12 people during the service, killing eight, including himself.

An employee of a hardware store in nearby Elm Grove, Wis., says she talked with Mr. Ratzmann weeks before the shootings, at which time he told her he was angry and depressed "about the church."

She said Mr. Ratzmann made his remarks while visiting with her in the store's checkout line. She said he was a regular customer and she was fairly well acquainted with him.

She said he mentioned to her he was "very angry" with "his church" because of a "sermon." She said he did not mention any specific person he was upset with. But she stated that he mentioned the Sheraton hotel in Brookfield to her and said, "It's going to be on the news."

The uncle of 15-year-old Bart Oliver, the youngest church member who lost his life in the shootings, talked with the hardware-store employee on July 20.

"She was very pleasant and expressed concern over our loss," said Tom Geiger of Sullivan, Wis.

The store employee was not "sure of the date of her last encounter with Terry," Mr. Geiger said, but did say it could have been two, three or four weeks before the shooting.

She told Mr. Geiger she knew Mr. Ratzmann fairly well as a result of his frequent visits to the store. He was normally "upbeat" during his visits, Mr. Geiger told *The Journal*, and would sometimes joke with store employees.

"She confirmed that Terry looked very angry and upset that day, which was out of the norm for him," Mr. Geiger said.

Mr. Ratzmann initiated the conversation with the woman about the church, Mr. Geiger said.

Mr. Ratzmann "was not specific as to which sermon bothered him," reported Mr. Geiger. "She said that there was no way that she could have gauged the depth of his anger and thus become alarmed at what he might do."

Only after the shootings made news headlines around the world did the employee realize the extent of Mr. Ratzmann's anger, Mr. Geiger said.

"I asked her if she in any way could have been aware of what he was capable of, and of course she said no," Mr. Geiger said.

Mr. Geiger's conversations with the store employee have prompted him to change his mind about the March 12 behavior of his friend and fellow LCG member Terry Ratzmann.

"I have been forced to conclude that Terry's actions on March 12 were premeditated, at least to some extent. It would seem that Terry had at least mentally broached the idea of the shooting for some time, even though the fateful decision to actually consummate this horrible act must have occurred early that afternoon of March 12, 2005."

As a result, Mr. Geiger is changing some of the analysis he offers in a book he is writing about the shootings called *Martyrdom in Milwaukee*.

AD --- Go to:
<http://darwinlauralee.150m.com> under "Web Site Links" to find Dixon Cartwright's Web Site. This AD is posted as a courtesy and does not necessarily mean that we are in agreement with the views of Dixon Cartwright. Darwin & Laura Lee

THE END



Is Christ a Christian's Example?

by Phil Griffith Delight, Arkansas



John 13:13-16 and I Peter 2:18-25 would seem to imply Christ set an example for Christians and some will say the discussion ends here.

These two eyewitnesses to the ministry of Jesus Christ do not just seem to imply Christ is an example for Christians, that is exactly what they say. However, these two writers taken in context are very specific as to exactly what Christ did and is doing that is a Christian's example.

Some want to confine John 13 to a ceremony and expand I Peter even to making themselves Lords and Judges of other people including other Christians.

Have Christians forgotten that Christ is Lord and all Christians are fellow servants? (Rev. 22:9 and I9:10)

In I Peter 3:1 when Peters tells wives to be subject to their husbands, he is saying this in the context of Christ's example. Peter concludes in I Peter 5-5 by saying, "... all be subject one to another..."

How can people be subject to one another if they cannot trust and respect each other? Trust and respect need to go both ways to get the best results. Christians may say they trust and respect God. Surely Christians know that God wants to be able to trust and respect them.

THE END



Sacred Names Doctrine?

Sent by Gladys A. Heath Vero Beach, Florida



As this age closes, we are informed (in Revelation 2&3) about 7 specific assemblies of our Mighty One. One, in particular (Philadelphia) is described this way, "You have a little strength, and have kept My WORD, and HAVE NOT DENIED MY NAME(!)" (Rev.3:8). Later on, as their rewards for 'overcoming' are listed, it says, "I will write on him the Name of My Mighty One(!)."

To underline the importance of this identifying mark of the end-time assemblies; we're introduced to 144,000 of them (in Rev.14:1) where they're described thusly: "And I looked, and lo, a Lamb stood on Mount Zion, and with Him 144,000, HAVING HIS FATHER'S NAME WRITTEN IN THEIR FOREHEADS." This sounds like a parallel of the reward of the Philadelphians, doesn't it?

The Hebrew portion of the scriptures is literally FILLED with references to the Name of the Mighty One of Israel. Proverbs 30:4 actually asks, "Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is His Name, and what is His Son's Name, if you can tell?"

In almost 7000 instances, the Given Name of the Mighty One of Abraham, Isaac & Jacob ...YHWH (called the tetragrammaton, and pronounced "Yahweh") ...was purposely deleted from the Bible!! The same is true in the case of our Savior and elder Brother, whom everyone would quickly inform you is "Jesus." The fact is, and can be proven beyond the shadow of a doubt, that our Anointed One was a Jew... born of Jewish lineage... and was given a fairly common Jewish name by his parents. That Name IS... "Yahshua" (or Yah-o-shua,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

QUESTIONS SECTION

questions-section-darwin-laura@earthlink.net

ANSWER BIBLICAL QUESTIONS

Send your answers to:
questions-section-darwin-laura@earthlink.net

Or

Darwin & Laura Lee
PO Box 2333
Bismarck, ND 58502

WE NEED ANSWERS TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.
(When answering questions, please include the # of the question you are answering.)

QUESTION #4=Are Jesus and Jehovah the same?

QUESTION #8=How did the serpent speak to Eve?

QUESTION #12=After reading through the bible about money and it's role, I'm beginning to ask who created money and where was money created in heaven or in the world and for what purpose?---These are some of the questions about money in the bible.---(1) This is the first money transaction I saw in the bible, (Gen. 23 v 7 - 20 it is all about burial ground). (2) The second transaction is all about hatred (Gen. 37 v 26-28), this is where the power of money came into play (Gen. 42 v 25-38). No wonder Ecc. 7 verse 12 calls it defense, but wisdom is better so where does it (money) come from?

QUESTION #18=Should animal sacrifices be done because GOD has commanded it to be so or should it not be done because Jesus Christ has come and died for us?

QUESTION #21=Was Jesus the first person to condemn animal sacrifice and was it animal sacrifice that he condemned or the actions of the people?

QUESTION #22=This is the beginning of the teaching of the prophet Isaiah (Isah. 1 v 2 -19 Isaiah here called on the people of his time by saying this and this in (v - 12 who

ask you to bring me animal sacrifice and here he condemned Sabbath keeping here too but in vers 18 the lord says come now lets settle the matter. The apostle Paul offered a sacrifice in this place Acts 21 v 26 G. N. B. He even performed ceremony of purification and every body quotes him when they wish it to go the other way around. (1 Timothy 1 verse 1 It's the same Paul speaking here and please explain this Acts 24 v 17-18 G. N. B. vers. 17 of Acts 21 this is where I would love to understand because here the ones I will call the living witness say to brother Paul vers. 21 G. N. B., HERE PAUL OFFERED SACRIFICE OR WHAT IS THIS appeal?

QUESTION #23=In vers. 35, 36, 37, 38 of Luke 21, the disciples said look here are two swords and the lord that demanded this says that is enough so what did the purse, bag and sword stand for?

QUESTION #32=Why don't you unite to churches like Philadelphia, United or Living?

QUESTION #33=What is the meaning of the word "Dunamis", as it appears in the Bible?

THE END**

QUESTION #38

If Satan, a spirit-being, was not "literally" living in Pergamon, can we then draw the conclusion that the saints, spirit-beings, will not "literally" be on the earth, that is the physical realm, in the Millennium?

Satan was literally living in Pergamos (Revelation 2:13). The issue here is between the words "literal" and "spiritual". We live in a material world and tend to think of something spiritual as non-literal. However, this is a case of comparing apples to oranges. Satan is a spirit being but his existence is just as literal as any flesh-and-blood human.

Being in a material world causes us to think of material physical things as a first priority unless we learn otherwise. We tend to believe what we see. However, the reality is: "...the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal" (2 Corinthians 4:18).

In answer to your question, the saints

will be literally on the earth as beings living in bodies that do not die (1 Corinthians 15:52-55). This is ordinarily understood to mean that the saints will have spirit bodies (bodies similar to what Christ had after his resurrection).

Saints who overcome will be given rulership over the nations (Revelation 2:26).

Who will they rule over?

One thesis is: they will be ruling over the human trainees who have yet to qualify for eternal life. The human trainees will be flesh-and-blood humans. How would we know? Because the leaves of the tree of life will be used for the healing of the nations (Revelation 22:2). If the nations consisted of nothing but spirit beings, there would be no need for healing. Also there will be children playing (Isaiah 11:8), something not possible without physical humans to give birth to them. Spirit beings (resurrected saints) do not marry nor are they given in marriage (Luke 20:35). The ruling saints will be literally on this planet inside bodies that do not die.

Everyone will be rewarded by Christ according to their work (Revelation 22:12).

Answered by:

**Wily Elder
North Miami, Florida**

THE END**

QUESTION #39

What Bible translations do you recommend?

As one reference, speaking of myself. I wanted to be more like Yeshua. So, I set out to find something, that I thought would help me, being that I am not Jewish, and I don't speak Hebrew. On the advice of a friend, I purchased, the Complete Jewish Bible, by David Stern. I especially liked the small section on vowels, consonants, and accentuations, in his transliterations. This Bible has the English Version of the Tanakh (Old Testament including the Torah) and B'rit Hadashah (New Testament), which has been such a blessing. I later purchased The Stone Edition Chumash (Torah, Haftaros, and Megillos with a commentary), in English, with much arrogance from the bookstore. I loved this Torah. I was understanding more and more as time went on. Then I decided to

purchase, The Stone Edition Tanach (The Torah, Prophets, Writings) in English, so that I could take it with me to Sabbath Services. I have been so blessed in my studies and perhaps this little bit of information will help others, in their quest for understanding. The Jewish receptionist is very nice to me at the bookstore especially since now I have to purchase a Jewish Midrash.

Answered by:
Joyce Savannah
Lynnwood, Washington

THE END

QUESTION #40

And then the most wonderful of it all is this in Luke 22:25-38. In verse 35, Jesus said, when I sent you out that time without purse, bag or shoes, did you lack anything, and they answered not a thing. And verse 36, makes me to wonder and ask, do we as believers need this sword in our fellowship today?

Let's begin by looking at **Luke 35-38** :

35. **And He said to them, "When I sent you without money bag, knapsack, and sandals, did you lack anything?" So they said, "Nothing."**
36. **Then He said to them, "But now, he who has a money bag, let him take it, and likewise a knapsack; and he who has no sword, let him sell his garment and buy one."**
37. **"For I say to you that this which is written must still be accomplished in Me: "And He was numbered with the transgressors." For the things concerning me have an end."**
38. **So they said, "Lord, look, here are two swords." And He said to them, "It is enough." (NKJV throughout).**

On previous occasions when *Jesus* sent out the disciples, even though they were still unconverted, they went out under *His* authority and *His* power and had no need for the basics of life. (See **Luke 9:3, 10:4, Matt. 10:10**). This time was different. Why? *Jesus* knew very well what the Prophet *Isaiah* had written concerning *Him*: **Isa. 53:12c. -- And He was numbered with the transgressors.** It was customary for Galileans to wear a sword for protection and Peter certainly wore his into the garden. One sword, therefore, was not considered to be offensive -- **not a transgression** -- to the authorities. There

had to be at least two. So, in order for *Jesus* to fulfill prophecy, *He* had to be in possession of at least 2 swords. ***That is the only reason why He demanded 2 swords.***

However, the disciples regarded the swords as weapons of protection and verse 49 indicates that they were willing to use them to protect *Jesus* as they saw that Judas was leading a contingent of soldiers and Jewish leaders to arrest *Him*. **John 18:9-11** indicates that Peter, impulsive as he was, drew his sword and cut off the right ear of Malchus who was servant to the high priest. *Jesus* reprimanded Peter and healed the servant's ear. This is further proof that the reason for the swords was ***only to fulfill Isaiah's prophecy.***

Do we need the sword in our fellowship today? We need to remember that the sword, in a literal sense, is a weapon of violence. Figuratively, the sword in scripture is depicted as *Divine retribution (Deut. 32:41)*, *Divine victory (Josh. 5:13)*, *God's judgment (1 Chron. 21:12)*, *An adulteress (Prov. 5:3,4)*, *Anguish of soul (Luke 2 :35)*. *State (Rom. 13:4)* and *God's word (Eph. 6:17)*. We read in **Eph. 6:17 -- And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.** Now compare this verse with **Heb. 4:12** which states: **For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.** In a literal sense, we ***do not need a sword in our fellowship. In a figurative sense, when we regard the sword as representing the "word of God", we DO INDEED need the sword in our fellowship.***

Answered by:
Tommy West
Wake Forest, North Carolina

THE END

QUESTION #41

Was Christ crucified or hanged?

Christ was both crucified and hanged (Acts 2:36 and Acts 5:30). The typical manner in which the Romans crucified people was to drive the nail in between the small bones of the wrist. So Christ, when crucified, was hanging from both wrists that were supported by nails. The traditional idea that crucifixion involved a nail in the middle of the hand is fiction. The flesh would strip out as soon as the person was in a vertical position because there are no extra bones

between the palm and the fingers that would be supports.

The natural question is why is the hand referred to when doubting Thomas talked to Christ? It's because hand (the Greek "cheir") includes wrist in its definition.

So, Christ was crucified, hanging by nails that had been driven between the small bones of his wrists.

Answered by:
Wily Elder
North Miami, Florida

THE END

QUESTION #42

Because *Jesus* demanded this sword (verse 36) and verse 38 presented two swords and he answered that is enough, and in verse 49 of Luke chapter 22, the disciples asked shall we use the sword in verse 50. One of the disciples named Peter used the sword and in verse 51 *Jesus* said enough of this. I ask again do we need a sword in our fellowship today?

The answer to this question requires the same answer as was given to **QUESTION #40**. *Jesus* was determined to fulfill the prophecy of **Isaiah 53:12** which demanded that *He* be numbered among the transgressors. Swords were used in that day for personal protection -- No one would question the presence of one sword -- There had to be at least 2. Any fellowship ***must strive for unity (Psa. 133:1, Eph. 4:13)*** if there is going to be physical growth. The sword is used figuratively to represent the "word of God" (**Eph. 6:17** and **Heb. 4:12**). In this sense, a "sword" should be used in fellowship groups. In this way, unity will develop along with spiritual growth.

Answered by:
Tommy West
Wake Forest, North Carolina

THE END

ALL BACK COPIES OF OUR NEWSLETTER ARE NOW POSTED ON OUR WEB SITE AT:
<http://darwinlauralee.150m.com>
IN PRINTABLE PDF FORMAT.

LETTERS SECTION

Letter Received:
May 20, 2005

Subject: FOLLOW-UP ON PAST
COMMENTS CONCERNING
DIVORCE AND RE-MARRIAGE

by Tommy West
Wake Forest, North Carolina

This is continued from Issue #28 on page #12.

Tommy Writes:

On page 13 of Newsletter #13, in the middle of the first column we read:

"EDITOR'S NOTE:

Mathew 5:32 But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, **saving for the cause of fornication**, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced (because of fornication) committeth adultery. You state that there is no exception clause, may I ask what exactly this is as stated in Matthew 5:32? It is also stated in Matthew 19:7-9:

7. They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away?

8. He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so.

9. And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife **except it be for fornication**, and shall marry another, committeth adultery; and whoso marrieth her which is put away (for fornication) doth commit adultery.

In both places Christ is the one who stated this exception along with the clear intent from the beginning. If you do not believe these to be exception clauses as you put it, then please explain to all, exactly what these are? Please also explain what fornication is, as explained in the Bible?"

You advised me in the next paragraph to consult a harmony of the gospels to get the full meaning. I did. And when I consulted **Mark 10:1-12** and **Luke 16:18**, I found no exception clause. Then I consulted **Romans 7:2-3** and **1 Corinthians 7**. again, no exception clause. So, neither Mark, nor Luke, nor Paul were aware of an exception clause that only Matthew noted. I must ask, "Why?" **If Jesus DID actually speak the words**

"except for adultery" as Matthew states, then these other authors are ignorant, deceived, or both.

Laura Writes:

Technically I told you to consult the entire Bible in regard to this subject and not just the 4 gospels. Matthew put more detail into his account than some of the others, but that does not mean that the others were ignorant or deceived as to what the law of God says in regard to divorce. Again read Deuteronomy 24:1-4.

Also the wording is "except it be for fornication" which can include "adultery" but also includes a whole lot more than just that one thing.

Tommy Writes:

We read in **2 Corinthians 13:1b: "By the mouth of two or three witnesses every word shall be established."** Here, Paul is quoting **Deut. 17:6** and **Deut.19:15**. Paul was confirming an age-old principle that *just as one witness was not enough to convict a murder, neither is just one witness enough to affirm a spiritual principle*. Note, please, that there **must be 2 witnesses -- NOT 2 SCRIPTURES**. In the case of the "exception clause", though **THAT SCRIPTURE appears twice in the gospel of Matthew, THERE IS ONLY ONE WITNESS**. We also know that there are questionable scriptures found in the Bible, one being **John 7:53 -- 8:11**, the incident of the woman caught in adultery. **Because there is only one witness and because neither Mark, nor Luke, nor Paul mention the "exception clause", I have good reason to believe that the clause is spurious and NOT IN THE ORIGINAL.**

Laura Writes:

The only reason you are hoping that it is not in the original would be because it does not fit in with the doctrine which you are teaching so therefore you will do whatever you can to throw the scripture from the Bible.

If you want to claim that this exception clause is not in the original text, then we can't just take your word for that, we would have to have some form of valid proof and you didn't send us any.

2 Timothy 3:16 **All scripture** is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

Since the Bible itself tells us all scripture is given by inspiration of God..., that would

be another witness to Matthews account, since God is the one who inspired it to be written in the first place.

We do understand that there are some translation errors in the Bible, however we would need to see the proof for this being one of them and as I said, you sent no proof.

Also, there are many things written throughout the Bible to prove that marriage in a sin filled world is not always for life no matter what. We do agree with you that God's intent in the perfect world that He created was for one man and one woman to be married for life, but when sin came most things changed and marriage for life was one of them.

For instance the "Law of Moses" is the "Law of God", they are not different laws. In Matthew 19:8 and Mark 10:4, it is referring the reader back to the law of God in the Old Testament. Both of these accounts also tell us why divorce was allowed by God through Moses. It was due to the hardness of their hearts. (Mark 10:5, Matthew 19:8)

In Lev. 19:16 which is part of the law of God it tells us that we are not to put our neighbors life in jeopardy. Who is our closest neighbor? It would be our mate. So if one is beating on their mate regularly, it is clearly against the law of God. Why would anyone have to stay in that type of fornication (sin)?

In Hosea 13 the entire chapter, it shows that those who are with Baal are considered to be "dead". Those who are apostate (sinning against God on a regular basis with no remorse) are considered to be dead.

What is written in the Old Testament was written first. What is written in the New Testament is sometimes hard to understand on it's own as it is a work of references which refer back to the things written in the Old Testament, so one must take the partial quotes from the New Testament and find the entire statement or law as written in the Old Testament or you will not be able to understand what is being said. Talk to a person who only uses the New Testament sometime and see just how confused they are in regard to what scripture says.

Tommy Writes:

What is fornication? There are 2 OT definitions. According to STRONG'S they are OT #'s 2181 and 8457. The first, #2181 is **zanah, zaw-naw; to commit adultery; fig. to commit idolatry**. The second word, #8457 is **taznuwth or taznuth, taz-nooth; harlotry or fig. idolatry**.

In the NT, the Greek word for fornication is STRONG'S #4202, **porneia, por-ni-ah;**

from #4203; harlotry (incl. adultery and incest); fig. idolatry. These are accepted meanings.

Laura Writes:

As you can see, the very definition you have given for fornication includes idolatry which is sin. Colossians 3:5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

Tommy Writes:

In the same column, Laura writes, "God always held both the man and the woman responsible for committing adultery. My advice on your point two would be, to be less concerned about Jewish law and more concerned about God's law." MY short response to that is, "Most Jewish law is God's law. The Jews were given the oracles of GOD. (Rom. 3:2). Also, note that Jesus told the woman at the well that **"salvation is of the Jews."** (John 4:22).

Laura Writes:

When I was telling you to be more concerned about God's law than about Jewish Law, I was talking about the extra stuff the Jewish people added which was never a part of God's law. The law of God which the Jewish people preserved for us all this time is God's law and not Jewish law. It does say "the oracles of God" and not "the oracles of the Jews", does it not? Yet it is a well know fact that the Jewish people added many things to God's law in order to bind heavy burdens on the people. If you misunderstood my statement, I am sorry.

Tommy Writes:

Further, in the same center column of the same Newsletter, you write:

"NOTE:

In regard to your statement: *(It might also be noted that most Bible scholars contend that Mark wrote his epistle first having heard the words directly from the apostle Peter.)* #1--Mark's book is well known by most serious Bible students as the Gospel of Mark, not an epistle. #2-- "Bible Scholars?" If that can be proven from scripture that Mark heard 'the words' as you state here from Peter first, then we need clear scripture that proves that, other wise its just that, contend, which equals "scholars opinion". #3-- What are you referring to when you say "the words", the words specifically quoted by you Mark 10:1-12 or all of the words that Mark wrote in his gospel called Mark?

Jesus' disciples walked with and were all taught by Him throughout His three and a half year ministry. For someone to make claim that certain disciples only heard certain words of Jesus from another disciple and not directly from Jesus Himself is a bit of a stretch and matters little as to what and how God inspired His writers to write what God wanted written down. Darwin Lee."

In response to Darwin's three points: #1. Darwin is correct in noting that most serious Bible students regard Mark's inspired book to be a "Gospel". **So it is. I apologize to Darwin and everyone else.** #2. The Bible neither confirms or disproves this point. It must be noted, however, that **only the chosen twelve apostles were with Christ during His earthly ministry and then not in every instance. During the TRANSFIGURATION, for instance, only Peter, James and John accompanied Jesus to the mount. WE KNOW MARK WAS NOT THERE. WE ALSO KNOW HE RECORDED THE INCIDENT. HE EITHER HEARD IT FROM SOMEONE OR SAW WRITTEN EVIDENCE. EARLY CHURCH HISTORY INDICATES THAT MARK HEARD THE ACCOUNT FROM PETER.** Eusebius, c. 140 A.D. or earlier, Justin Martyr, c. 150 and others all attest that Mark heard Peter's oral account of Jesus' acts and wrote down what he remembered. #3. My use of the phrase "the words" could cause confusion. By "all the words" I meant all the words in the Gospel of Mark.

To conclude, my first letter was a response to Rhoda Foust's article in Newsletter #11. "Who Is, or Is Not Free to Marry?" It was my intent then and now to emphasize the permanence of marriage between a man and a woman. The 7th Commandment is etched in stone and should ever be **etched in our hearts: YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY.** (Ex. 20:14, Deut. 5:18). If one carefully studies New Testament scriptures which cite what Jesus' position is on this subject, the eternal truth is affirmed and re-affirmed that marriage **between a man and a woman is for life. There are no exceptions. Matthew 19:6b -- "Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."** Adultery is a major problem within the body of Christ. It shouldn't be. All that needs to be done is to **Obey the commandment.**

Laura Writes:

Again, I do agree that in a perfect world God intended that marriage be for life and it should be a goal that all of God's people should strive for.

The thing that Tommy seems to continue to ignore is that we are not living in

a perfect world at this point and because of that God did allow for divorce and it is written into the law. We find it in Deut. 24:1-4. Another point that Tommy does not consider is that many men throughout scripture had more than one wife including David and God did not count it as sin. Jacob had four wives and God blessed him greatly.

When David took another man's wife it was considered to be adultery and God was not pleased with him. Another definition of "adultery" is apostasy (sinning against God).

Tommy is defining adultery to mean more than one wife, yet many men of God had several wives and were blessed greatly. We are not advocating divorce for no reason. We are saying that no person should have to stay in a marriage where they are being beaten or where they are having to put up with any number of lifestyles of sin being forced on them. The person who is beating someone or continuing in a lifestyle of sin because they want to are not only apostate from God, but they are the perpetrator of the crimes against their mate. The other mate that is having these lifestyles forced on them due to a marriage relationship are the victims and God allowed for them to not only divorce but to also be allowed to re-marry, but only in the Lord.

This debate will probably last as long as we do, so it is up to the reader to study this very large subject for themselves and draw their own conclusions as to what scripture really says.

*****THE END*******

* Letter Received: *
* July 7, 2005 *
* Subject: PRAYER REQUESTS & *
* UPDATES--PART #1 *
* by Rosemary Halley *
* Chandler, Texas *

Dear Darwin and Laura,
I have been receiving quite a few complaints from people who were not happy receiving literature without their requesting it. I received a piece about "When will God heal?" with a card from you, but thought you might have just stuck it in, since we are sort of "partners in prayers".

This is an excerpt from a message I received yesterday: "A friend came by yesterday. We were discussing the cards we had received from friends on the prayer lines. She mentioned receiving a card with 23 cents postage due. When she opened the envelope, she found a card plus church

literature. I told her that I had received a large envelope with a get well card and church literature. Actually a fat newsletter type and a brochure on "When Will God Heal". She looked at the stuff and said it was the very same thing that she had received. The two packets came from Darwin & Laura Lee, PO Box 2333, Bismarck ND 58502. Thought you might be interested in knowing what the Lee's are up to."

I had a problem a few years ago with the same thing -- a couple of ministers were using the addresses from my Prayer Lines to send unsolicited literature. I made a plea (through the PL) for them to stop, and I'm happy to say that they did. I'm going to ask you guys to please not do this any longer. This is just taking advantage of sick people's addresses for your own benefit.

I had assumed that you withheld people's addresses and used your own (then forwarded them on) because of this same problem, but evidently I was wrong.

I have thoroughly enjoyed working with you guys -- I know we are all working for the best for God's people, and feel terrible that I even have to write you about this. But, I must protect the addresses that I use in the Prayer Lines.

Thanks so much for your cooperation. ICL, Rosy

Dear Rosy,

I believe that you are misunderstanding our intent here. We have been sending these packets to sick people for several years now, long before you ever started sending your prayer requests here. They are by no means sent only to those who are on your list. Norman Edwards wrote the tract "When Will God Heal?" quite some time ago and offered it to us several years ago to include when we send out cards. We usually include a "Sample" newsletter when we send out cards. We do this because sometimes sick people would like to have something to read. It is fine, I do understand that you have received complaints from some people, but we many times receive letters from people who are thankful to get these packets.

We do not send out addresses for safety and privacy reasons. The fact that we post these prayer requests on our web site for 1 year should show the logic in that. It has nothing to do with trying to control what people send to others. Some people just wouldn't want their address posted on the internet for 1 year on a prayer list.

It was not our intent that people should have to pay postage for the packet, and we were unaware of this point, which we will remedy in the future.

However in regard to this statement:

"Thought you might be interested in knowing what the Lee's are up to." ----The Lee's are not up to anything. This has been our practice in sending cards to the sick since our start. The packet generally includes a card or cards, a "Sample" newsletter and a tract "When Will God Heal?"

Since this has been our practice for several years now and since the letters we receive in regard to these packets are mostly letters of thankfulness we will continue this practice now and in the future when sending cards to those on our prayer requests list.

When you send your prayer requests here, you are doing it voluntarily, and not because I asked you to. Once you send the prayer requests here, they become a part of our list. You have rules you follow on your list and we have rules we follow on our list. If one of your rules is to tell us what we can and cannot do once you voluntarily send your prayer requests here, then I should also be able to tell you how to run your list. We both know that my telling you how to run your list as well as your telling me how to run my list will never work. Again we will continue to send the packets out as we have for several years now.

So I would say that if your intent is to get the prayer requests out to as many people as possible and you still want to continue to work together as we have and since you are the one who is having the problem with the way we send cards to everyone on our list and not just those you send us, then you need to remove all the addresses before you send the prayer requests to us. If that is not something that you want to do then you will have to decide whether you want to send them here anymore or not. What ever you decide will not affect your receiving (or sending) prayer requests through our list.

I am sorry as I feel this is probably not what you wanted to hear, however it is not your place to tell us what we can and cannot do in regard to sending cards to sick people. That part is not at all in your control. I feel that if we were only sending these packets to those on your prayer list, you would have a legitimate complaint against us, but since this was our practice for many years before you started sending your list here, it is not something we will change at this time. So the choice is yours. Send them without the addresses or don't send them at all.

Whatever you decide, we have no hard feelings towards you and we want only the best for you always. Have a really great Sabbath and we sincerely hope there are no hard feelings from you towards us. This matter is clearly something you yourself can remedy to suite your needs by either

removing the addresses before you send them here or by not sending them to us at all. We sincerely hope you understand our position here. Laura Lee

THE END**

* Letter Received: *
* July 8, 2005 *
* Subject: PRAYER REQUESTS & *
* UPDATES--PART #2 *
* by Rosemary Halley *
* Chandler, Texas *

Darwin & Laura

I was not aware until recently that you had been sending out the literature. I was also not aware that the prayer requests were on your website for a year.

It was not my intent to tell you what to do. I thought I was asking you to do this thing for me. I would not appreciate anyone telling me what to do, so I try never to do it to someone else.

I have the highest regard for you guys and what you do, and would like to find a solution for this, so we can continue to work together in this, God's work.

I have noticed lately that all you print is the New requests and Updates, so how about this? If I were to remove the addresses on the new and updates and delete the rest, then send it to you, would you continue to print it? I feel that prayer requests are so important that it would be a shame if a bunch of readers (and pray-ers, hopefully) would be eliminated.

True, your response was not exactly what I wanted to hear, but I can understand your reasoning behind it, and I truly do not want to sever our sharing of the prayer requests. Maybe this will work, I pray. So, here is today's Prayer Lines (sorry it is so late, but wanted to write you before I sent it.)

Thank you for your response and thank you for doing the work you do.

ICL, Rosy

Dear Rosemary,

You have been sending prayer requests and updates over here for approximately 18 months now. If you are just now receiving complaints about the cards we send to those on the list that you send here, that tells me there probably weren't that many complaints. Perhaps we all need to understand that we are all unable to please all of the people all of the time and there will always be some who complain. This will save me a lot of time not having to send cards to those on your

list, but I believe it will be a disservice to those who might have benefited in some way from receiving our packets (A Card, A Tract "When Will God Heal?", and a "Sample" newsletter).

Every time you send Prayer Requests & Updates to us via prayer-requests-darwin-laura@earthlink.net you should receive an "auto response" message. The "auto response" message clearly tells anyone who receives and reads it that the prayer requests and updates are all posted on our web site for 1 year. Even if you do not receive the "auto response" message, we have sent this information out periodically in other e-mails. Since you did not know that we post all prayer requests that have gone out over e-mail on our web site for one year, then I could probably assume that you have not even gone to our web site to even look at the "Prayer Requests & Updates" section. I strongly recommend that you go to our web site and look very closely at our "Prayer Requests & Updates" section. You will find this section at: <http://darwinlauralee.150m.com> just scroll down the page.

It certainly looked to us as if you were trying to tell us what to do. Your closing line was "Thanks so much for your cooperation." In other words it was a given you would tell us not to send our packets to those on your list and we were to cooperate with this as you even thanked us ahead of time for doing so. Perhaps you did not intend to tell us what to do, but none the less that is how it came across to us. Included in your email was an accusation that we were up to something and a judgment that we were taking advantage of sick people's addresses for our own benefit. We are sorry that you feel this way about us.

We have been sending out the following which are sent to us by you: Urgent Requests, New Requests, Updated Requests, Births and Deaths. There is no need for us to send out the other ones on your list since they appear to be just repeats of what has already been sent out. Because all prayer requests are posted on our web site for 1 year, people can go there to get the complete lists, which since April of this year can now also be downloaded and printed easily since they are also all posted as PDF Files. Again I would strongly urge you to go to our web site and look at our "Prayer Requests & Updates" section before you make judgments in regard to us whether good or bad. Also, with newsletter Issue #27, we have again started listing prayer requests in a short version.

As I told you in my last email to you, whatever decision you make in regard to this

matter will not affect your ability to be able to continue to send and receive prayer requests and updates through our list. We do not operate in a manner that we cut people off if we do not agree with them. We try to be fair to all people and work with them in cooperation, however cooperation does not mean that we just do it because someone said it. Again, please have a really great Sabbath and I again do encourage you to spend some time really looking at our "Prayer Requests & Updates" section on our web site at:

<http://darwinlauralee.150m.com>
Laura Lee

Editor's Note:

The last time Rosemary Halley sent Prayer Requests & Updates to us was on July 8, 2005. We had no problem receiving and sending out Prayer Requests & Updates from her with the addresses removed by her. It was fully her choice not to send Prayer Requests & Updates to us any longer. Our prayer line is open to all people who have requested to be on our list. Rosemary Halley is still on our Prayer Requests & Updates list.
Laura Lee

THE END**

* Letter Received: *
* July 17, 2005 *
* Subject: Persecution Alive and *
* Well in 2005 *
* by Janine Ziomek-Witek *
* Buffalo, New York *

Dear Laura Lee,

I'm writing this letter for a few reasons. First, I want to say thank you for printing my letter in the July/August 2005, Issue #28 about asking for pen pals and to share my feelings with the others who read this. Your newsletter is a blessing to me. And I'd like to say something about one of the "Information Section" articles. The one sent by your husband Darwin Lee titled "HBO's Bill Maher Says Christians Have Neurological Disorder, Are Crazy". When I read this it didn't surprise me any of what Mr. Bill Maher said here. You see those of us who might have remembered his other show he had back on ABC called "Politically Incorrect with Bill Maher", when 9/11/01 happened, not soon after that Mr. Maher had some very bad thinking dealing with that. And because of it he made the nation as a whole upset and ABC ended his show because of it, but I'm sorry I can't remember word for word what he said. If

some time someone can find out what it was I would be grateful. But anyways we need to pray for him and all like him. Amen?

I'd like to share something dealing with "Persecution and Reading the Bible in 2005". I'd like to write about something that happened to me just this month alone and the lesson I learned from it.

You see this past Sabbath I was reading my Bible outside on my porch and most of the people who live near me belong to the Roman Catholic Church just down the street from me. Some of these folks I have known since I was a young girl.

But when they saw me reading my Bible, I had more than one tell me I shouldn't, and said they would pray that God would forgive my sin (reading the Bible that is). It upsets me greatly. It got so bad that I went in to read it. I understand some folks were told not to read the Bible.

But to me it's not a sin but a blessing for me to read and learn from it. Then I was called a Jesus freak. I like about had a panic attack from that.

I thought this was 2005, not 1885 or something, in the USA no less. What happened to me was sad but I'm still reading my Bible and even outside too. I just wanted to share this with you. Don't give up and keep praying and keeping the Sabbath too.

Well that's all I want to write. I hope you will print this in your newsletter if you can and keep up the good work.
God Bless, Janine Ziomek-Witek

Editor's Note:

Keep on reading that Bible. Laura Lee

THE END**

* Letter Received: *
* July 28, 2005 *
* Subject: Guest Book Entry *
* by Laura Aschenbrenner *
* Via the Internet *

In the process of looking for a Colorado Feast site I came across your site. I am intrigued by your message. I don't have much time to browse today as I am at work, but I will be back to check out your site.

THE END**

Visit Our Web Site Often:
<http://darwinlauralee.150m.com>

ARTICLES SECTION

newsletter-only-darwin-laura@earthlink.net

PERSECUTION ARTICLES

(This is the 7th in a series of articles in regard to the subject of persecution. If you have an article in regard to persecution, please send it for our consideration to print.)

SEVENTH DAY MEN --- Part #2

by Doyle Carter
Tulsa, Oklahoma

In the first article, I addressed the topic of the "Seventh Day Men" of England during the seventeenth century. Since this was such a fascinating reading to me, I decided to continue presenting the general facts on this topic and the men who were a part of it.

Thomas Tillam was a preacher at Hexham which is just north of London. This preacher, after much research, adopted laying on of hands after baptism which he understood as immersion.

Since he was paid by the church, the church asked that he give an account for his new beliefs. After this review with the church, he was dismissed as preacher in the Church of England.

After that, Mr. Tillam went out and searched for a church with similar beliefs. This search led him to Dr. Peter Chamberlen who led the only Baptist congregation that supported the Fifth Monarchy Movement.

In 1656, Mr. Tillam held his first Sabbath services, on Saturday. Like other Seventh Day men, in time he was arrested and during his time in prison he wrote many books that relate the Sabbath to prophecy. He even related the mark of the beast with the changing of the Sabbath day of Saturday to Sunday.

The Fifth Monarchy Movement, as mentioned earlier, was a semi-political pressure group which drew many fundamentalist congregations in England. They expected the Kingdom of God on the Earth very soon in their time. The name of this group came from Daniel 2 with the four kingdoms and the fifth which would be the Kingdom of Christ. To prepare for this kingdom in their point of view, England had to conform to the Laws of the Bible. Yes, they kept the Sabbath and believed in a

Millennium rule of God on Earth.

Henry Jessy was one notable Fifth Monarchy who observed a number of what opponents described as 'Jewish laws' which certainly included the Sabbath. He knew that the 'lost tribes' were to play a part in end time prophecy and made attempts to identify who they were, even postulating that they may be the American Indians.

Another gentleman that preached the Sabbath was John James who believed in the Millennial rule of Christ. He believed that Christ would come and remove all governments on Earth and be the King of Kings.

But on a Sabbath in October 1661, Mr. James and thirty of his congregation were arrested and executed as an example to others who may want to follow these beliefs. Mr. James' head was placed on a stake outside the Bullstake meeting house.

Stephen Munford decided to escape from this persecution and fled to Rhode Island in 1664. Over the course of a few years, he established a Sabbath keeping church which was the first church to observe the Sabbath in America.

These are just a few men listed here and their beliefs which they held dearly. Some of these beliefs are very similar to what we believe now in the Churches of God. It would be worth your effort to research this topic and it would enlighten you on many historical facts.

THE END**

PERSECUTION ARTICLES
Present Day Persecution:
Port Austin, Michigan
Sabbatarian Community in
Crisis

SUMMARY OF EVENTS AT
PORT AUSTIN (Points #26-37)

by Norman Edwards
Port Austin, Michigan

Editors Note:

This is the latest edition of the events in Port Austin. It was revised on 4-22-2005 and is the 4th Edition.

As much as we really wanted to print this all at one time, we felt we just couldn't due to the length. We have

decided to print this in 4 parts for those who do not have computers. For those who do have computers and have internet access, we will put the entire document on our web site at:

<http://darwinlauralee.150m.com>

Look for it on our opening page in the literature section. Laura Lee

26. From a legal perspective, there was much difficulty. Many of the original verbal agreements the men made when they started were now broken. The contract was between ELBI and the Sacred Purpose Trust, yet some of the men were opposing the concept of the Trust or working against the Trust's interests. From the beginning, the Trust preparer highly recommended an odd number of Trustees, 3 in this case, with the other being a successor Trustee. Rotating trustees were also suggested. He said it was a big mistake to name anyone a Trustee who was against the concept of a sacred purpose trust.

27. The Edwards family decided to ask God for a definite answer, and asked Him to work through the answers that they would receive as they exercised their various legal options. They made a few phone calls and found another Sabbatarian ministry where they would be welcome if the one in Port Austin became impossible. They prayed, telling God that they wanted to serve Him in teaching Christian young people in Port Austin, but that the present environment was simply too difficult to live in and was certainly no place to demonstrate God's way of life. They asked God to produce a solution that would be lawful, acceptable to Edwards and ELBI, and acceptable to legal counsel. They asked:

a. If God wanted Drieman, Williams and Edwards to run the project, then for God to cause Drieman to communicate ELBI's request for Frankford's removal to Williams and Edwards;

b. If Drieman did not communicate the request, and if God wanted Williams and Edwards to run the project initially, then for God to cause Williams to agree to work together when Edwards was to go to him to present that option;

c. If Williams refused, and if God wanted just Edwards to initially run the project, then for Him to cause ELBI (which had previously insisted on at least two Trustees) to accept a single Trustee.

d. If God did not want Edwards to be involved with this project, then for Him to

cause ELBI to reject a single Trustee, or stop Edwards from continuing the plan in any other way. If circumstances had worked out that way, Edwards would have resigned from all positions and left the project to another, taking what household things he could and hoping to be repaid when the others were able.

28. Only a few days prior to this, Edwards had spoken with Drieman for over an hour, attempting to show him many reasons why Frankford should be removed from all leadership positions-before ELBI's request. Edwards also made two appointments with Frankford to discuss the matters directly, but he did not show up for either. While Drieman frequently admitted that Frankford was very difficult to deal with, at no time did he ever acknowledge to Edwards that Frankford needed to be removed for the benefit of the project.

29. On September 12, 2004, Edwards then met with Williams, explaining that Frankford was not suitable to be a Trustee, Drieman was not willing to help solve that problem in a timely manner, and something had to be done to preserve the existing contracts. Edwards recommended that the Trust paperwork be completed with only two Trustees, Edwards and Williams-the two who had largely carried out their original promises. Williams agreed that Frankford needed to leave the Trust management, but was unwilling to do anything unless Drieman also agreed to it.

30. Either that day or the next, Warrick Potts of ELBI called Edwards again, wanting to know the status of Kizer and Frankford, and was unhappy to find that Frankford's removal had still not even been mentioned at the leaders' meetings. Potts then told Edwards that he had spoken with his ELBI board, and that his ELBI board said that if it was not possible to form a group of Trustees without Frankford, then the one name they would accept as a single Trustee would be Edwards. Similarly, the Trust preparer urged a single Trustee committed to the Trust as opposed to multiple Trustees who were not committed to its success or who did not know how to be Trustees. With additional prayer and counsel, Edwards agreed to become the single Trustee. A Certificate of Trust showing one Trustee and a corrected contract with ELBI were recorded at the Huron County Register of Deeds on September 17, 2004, the day after the Feast of Trumpets. The new ELBI contract corrected multiple problems with the old one:

a. The legal description of "Property 3" was completely wrong and was replaced in the new contract.

b. The first contract was prepared

with a slight error in the Trust name because Edwards had no trust paperwork at the time. It said "Port Austin Sabbatarian Church Community, a Sacred Purpose Trust" instead of: "Port Austin Sabbatarian Church Community Sacred Purpose Trust" (the "a" is gone.) The latter is correct, and is the only name that ever appeared on the Trust Indenture, Trust Minutes or Certificate of Trust. There is only one Trust. The contract and deed in error have been corrected to read "Port Austin Sabbatarian Church Community Sacred Purpose Trust".

c. When the initial ELBI contract was signed, the exact Trustees and Successor Trustees were not yet committed to writing. ELBI said that they had known Edwards for four years and were confident in him. Edwards knew Williams, who had produced even more money than he had promised. Edwards did not know Frankford and Drieman well-and they had not come through with what they promised. All the potential Trustees signed the original contract, but other related documents in those early months were signed only by Edwards. When the replacement ELBI contract was signed, it had a single Trustee's signature, matching the now signed and recorded Certificate of Trust. A document was prepared that would have made Drieman, Frankford and Williams Successor Trustees, but they walked out of the meeting before it was presented to them, and there has been no meeting since. (Other Successor Trustees have now been named.)

d. Several other miscellaneous provisions, such as the disposition of Unit 1, were also corrected.

31. But the problems were not over. In addition to the above items, there were numerous Trust Minutes to prepare, accounting records to be set in order and other paperwork to finish. Also, Drieman, Frankford and Williams stopped eating in the campus dining hall and stopped coming to the morning prayer meetings and Bible studies without any explanation. Days would go by where Edwards would never see them. By the time the other paperwork was finished, an urgent all-day, multiday project had begun: repairing the meeting hall ceiling before the Feast of Tabernacles. The tiles were literally falling down. Drieman, Edwards, Buckman, Anna DeLong and James Edwards all got up on 20-foot rented scaffolds, removed the old tiles and put up a new suspended ceiling. Williams helped on the ground crew. Broken windows and gym lights (which were nearly all burned out) were also replaced. Finishing this work was

a needed blessing from God, but it was the last time when Edwards, Drieman and Williams worked together in any major way. Drieman left, shortly before the project was completed, and Edwards was still hooking up the last of the meeting hall lights when the first out-of town guest arrived for the Feast! There had been no time for all four men to meet together before the Feast of Tabernacles.

32. Another important, ongoing issue of daily life pertained to water and sewer services. These things are not often thought about until the tap goes dry or the toilet backs up. The Trust buildings and numerous other former Air Force Base buildings still rely on the old military system for water and sewer services. Water is provided from two central wells and a pump-house. Sewer from the buildings flows through common pipes to a single place where it is metered and billed by the Port Austin Area Sewer and Water Authority. Williams continued to pay the plant operator but the task of paying the sewer bills and collecting water and sewer payments was not getting done. This job was passed on by contract to the Sacred Purpose Trust. By the time that the Feast of Tabernacles began, over \$4000 for four months of sewer payments were due and a shutoff notice for the entire group of buildings had been received. None of the individual users had been billed for services received. The Trust's available funds had been spent preparing for the Feast of Tabernacles, so money received at the Feast was used to pay the sewer bills and avoid a disaster. Most of the operation of the Trust has been that way-money has come available as it was needed. On October 19, 2004, William A. Buckman and Anna DeLong formed the Hillview Water and Sewer Co-op to collect the user fees, pay the bills and take care of any other essential needs. Edwards was appointed to handle Secretary-Treasurer responsibilities.

33. Due to a three-week Feast trip by Drieman and other extended Drieman/Williams trips, the first time Edwards could arrange for a meeting of all four men was October 29. He intended to present the financial records he had produced thus far and to explain the Trust status. About 20 minutes into the presentation, Drieman asked about the Trust, so Edwards explained that he was the only Trustee at that time. In well less than one minute, Drieman, Williams and Frankford left the room, not willing to hear any of the other prepared information or discuss any means whereby working together was still possible. Except for a conversation between Edwards and Williams

later that evening, there have been no further talks between Edwards and Drieman/Williams/Frankford. The three men have refused to answer Edwards' numerous letters. They have gone to great lengths to produce a biblical basis for this shunning of Edwards, but Edwards believes that it is simply a means to keep Williams-the only other one who made payments for the property-from reconciling with Edwards.

34. That same day, October 29, 2004, the Trust wrote a letter to Williams offering to reimburse him for his efforts and to continue working with him. On October 31, Edwards wrote a personal letter to Williams and Drieman offering to continue to work together in some way. On November 3, 2004, Edwards sent an eviction notice to Frankford for a number of reasons. (As an aside, this is the only eviction letter Edwards has sent to date.) Edwards later sent certified letters attempting communication and inquiring after the whereabouts of some Trust property to Frankford, Drieman and Williams, but only Drieman accepted his letter; the others let them return after 15 days unclaimed. No written response to any of these letters has been received, though some of the displaced property mentioned in them was returned a few days later. The three have not tried to initiate communications in any other way, whereas Edwards has sent multiple letters attempting communication. There have been no face-to-face conversations between Edwards and the other three men since October 29, 2004.

35. On December 7, 2004, Frankford and Drieman moved off the Trust property into two buildings owned by Frankford, directly across the street from the Trust property. Kizer moved in with them at some time near the end of the month. All of them had been using water and sewer services from Hillview Water and Sewer Coop, but had thus far refused to pay their bills.

36. On December 8, 2004, Edwards found on the Internet an affidavit (a legal declaration) signed November 30, 2004, stating that Frankford, Drieman and Williams were ending the Port Austin Sabbatarian Church Community, the Port Austin Sabbatarian Community Church, SEE, SEAL and all of the related programs of these ministries. They also demanded that Edwards no longer use those names. After verifying with the signing notary that the document was indeed genuine, and realizing that these three men were a majority of the members of these entities, Edwards agreed to comply with this demand and stop using the names of these now defunct entities. These entities had only the declarations giving their purpose and founding members;

no other governing documents were ever approved. (This is in great contrast to the Trust, a thoroughly written instrument in which a creator named the initial trustees and successor trustees, and in which the rules for making decisions are well defined. Only Edwards was ever named an acting Trustee of the Trust.) As it was, this was the end of the Sabbatarian Educational Environment (SEE) program; Anna DeLong, who had hoped to be a student of the ministry, decided to stay in order to assist with creating the new programs. In accordance with the provisions of the Trust, a new ministry, formed by William A. Buckman, Anna DeLong and Norman Scott Edwards, was named to use the assets of the Trust property:

**Port Austin Bible Campus
PO Box 474**

Port Austin, Michigan, USA 48467

The goals of the Port Austin Bible Campus are to provide Christian education in a community setting. The concepts are very similar to those expressed in the *Servants' News* articles of 2003 for SEE. This information was recorded in an affidavit on December 8, 2004, and mailed to Frankford, Drieman and Williams on December 23, 2004.

37. During December of 2004, an independent long-time Sabbatarian, former editor of the Sabbath Sentinel and current law student looked at the relevant deeds, contracts, and other documents related to the issues at the Port Austin campus. He concluded that there was no fraud on the part of Edwards or the Trust, and that Williams should be reimbursed for the payments he made that directly contributed to the project.

TO BE CONTINUED IN ISSUE #30**

COMING IN ISSUE

#30: Persecution -- by Ray Kaping

#30: Summary of Events at Port Austin (Points #38-50) -- by Norman Edwards

**ISSUE #30
WILL BE LATE BECAUSE OF
THE FEAST OF
TABERNACLES.**

HAVE A GREAT FEAST!

**WHAT EZEKIEL 38-39
REVEALS ABOUT
A FUTURE WORLD WAR III
--- Part #2**

**by Steven M. Collins
Sioux Falls, South Dakota**

Prophetic Time-Setting of Ezekiel 38-39:

The next prophecy in the book of Ezekiel is the subject of this paper. It is the famous prophecy about the attack of "Gog and Magog" *against the nations of Israel* in the latter days. This prophecy begins in Ezekiel 38:1 with the usual introductory words used throughout the book of Ezekiel which indicate a previous prophecy has concluded and a new one is beginning. This language is the now-familiar: "And the word of the Lord came unto me, saying..." and this new prophecy continues through Ezekiel 39:29. *The language in Ezekiel 38:1 makes it clear that the prophecy contained in Ezekiel 38-39 cannot be a continuation of any prophecy contained in Ezekiel 37.* The prophecy which God gave to Ezekiel in chapters 38-39 has a subject matter and time context of its own and it is not a continuation of any previous prophecy in the book of Ezekiel.

At the end of Ezekiel 39, the long string of prophecies in the book of Ezekiel ends, and its later chapters discuss matters pertaining to the Temple and new land inheritances for Israel's tribes at the beginning of the millennium. As the final prophecy in a long progression of prophecies in the book of Ezekiel, Ezekiel 38-39 needs to be seen as the climactic prophecy which it truly is.

There is much material to cover in Ezekiel 38-39, but first some contextual comments are needed. It is now obvious that the three separate prophecies contained in Ezekiel 37-39 are not sequential. Indeed, they are in three different, biblical "ages," and they are written in *reverse* time order. The "dry bones" prophecy in the first half of Ezekiel 37 will be fulfilled in a Judgment Age *after the millennium concludes* and after a second resurrection has occurred. The "two sticks" prophecy at the end of Ezekiel 37 has a time-setting which occurs *at the very beginning of the millennium* just after the first resurrection of the saints (including King David) occurs at the return of the Messiah: Jesus Christ/Yahshua. These two prophecies are obviously not in a forward chronological sequence. They are in a reverse chronological sequence as the first prophecy in Ezekiel 37 will be fulfilled 1000 years *after*

the second prophecy contained within Ezekiel 37! If one wishes to assume the prophecies of Ezekiel 37-39 are in a chronological sequence, the *reverse chronological sequence* of Ezekiel 37's prophecies should be continued into Ezekiel 38-39. This means Ezekiel 38-39's prophecy should have a time-setting in an age earlier than the preceding prophecy in Ezekiel 37:15-28 even as the prophecy of Ezekiel 37:15-28 had a time-setting one thousand years *earlier* than the "Dry Bones" prophecy which preceded it. Interestingly, that is exactly the case as God reveals Ezekiel 38-39 will be fulfilled during "the latter days," the climactic years at the end of *our current age* before the Millennium/Messianic Age begins.

There can be no doubt about the time-setting for Ezekiel 38-39's prophecy as God states very clearly when it will be fulfilled. All that is needed is to accept God's Word at face value. Ezekiel 38:16 states the prophecy will be fulfilled "*in the latter days,*" which is the same prophetic phrase commonly used for many other biblical, pre-millennial prophecies. Indeed, this biblical language is so clear that virtually all Christian denominations do take it at face value and understand that it will be fulfilled at the end of our modern age just prior to the return of Jesus Christ.

A second time-dating statement for this prophecy is found in Ezekiel 38:8 which states this prophecy will be fulfilled "*in the latter years*" (KJV). This wording comes from a very closely-related phrase indicating the latter years of this age instead of the latter days of this age, but the expressions reinforce each other. Ezekiel 38:8 also adds this prophecy will be fulfilled "after many days." This wording indicates the prophecy would be fulfilled in a time far into the future from when it was originally given to the prophet Ezekiel. The evidence is abundant that Ezekiel 38-39 will be fulfilled in the latter days (and years) of this age *just prior* to the return of the Messiah/Jesus Christ/Yeshuah.

The "Evil Alliance" led by Gog:

The subject matter of the Ezekiel 38-39 prophecy reveals many details about a surprise attack to be launched by an alliance led by "Gog" against the latter-day descendants of the ten tribes of Israel. Who is "Gog" and who are the nations led by Gog who will launch this attack at the climax of our age? The attacking and defending nations named in Ezekiel 38 are so numerous that it will constitute a World War III which will have a destructive nature far in excess of World Wars I and II combined.

Ezekiel 38:1-7 reveals who Gog and its allies are. The first names mentioned are

"Gog, the land of Magog... Meshech and Tubal..." The term "Gog" comes from the Hebrew word "Rosh" which means "head" or "chief." It means either the individual who is the "chief" or leader of this alliance or the nation which "heads" it. The "land of Magog" is identified with the region of Asia which is

within the modern territory of Russia. Gog is identified as "the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal." These entities have long been identified by Christian teachers as designating Russia in the modern world, and they are correct. There is much support for this designation. Ancient words did not have vowels so words can be traced into modern times by their consonants. The consonants of Meshech and Tubal are "M-S(h)-C(h)" and "T-B-L." The chief city of Russia is Moscow, and the first three consonants of Moscow match the principle consonants of Meshech (i.e. "M-S-C"). The consonants of Tubal ("T-B-L") can be seen preserved in the Russian city of Tobolsk and the Tobol River in Russia as well as in the Georgian city of Tblisi, which was long a part of the old Soviet Union. According to Ezekiel 38-39, Russia will lead the attacking alliance. Russia led the USSR in creating an anti-American and anti-Western alliance of Communist nations during the decades of the Cold War. Who are named in Ezekiel 38 as Russia's latter day allies?

The allies of Russia will constitute a "great company" (verse 4) and verses 5-6 identify Persia, Ethiopia, Libya, Gomer, Togarmah and many others who are not named. Many of these nations can be identified in the modern world, and most are already cooperating with Russia in the modern world.

Persia is the region now called Iran. In ancient times, these people were known as the Medo-Persians. The word "Medes" is derived from the word for their forbear named "Madai," a son of Japheth in Noah's formative family. It was Noah's family which repopulated the earth after the Deluge and Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth. All modern nations have descended from one of these three sons of Noah or from a mixture of these three main branches of mankind. All modern nations have descended from the sons and grandsons of Noah who are named in Genesis 10. A prophecy about Noah's sons is found in Genesis 9:25-29. It states Shem was to be "blessed of God," indicating his descendants would grow into prosperous nations and foreshadowing the fact that they would include the "birthright" nations of the tribes of Israel which would later descend from Abraham. Canaan, one of the sons of Ham, was cursed for a specific sin and his

descendants were destined to be in a state of servitude or subordination to Shem's descendants. However, this biblical curse applies only to Canaan's descendants, not the other branches of Ham's family. Japheth's descendants were to be "enlarged," indicating his descendants would be the most numerous of the three major groupings.

Shem's descendants generally include Caucasian and European nations as well as Jews, Turks, Arabs, etc. Hamitic nations include the Black- and Brown-skinned nations of Asia and Africa (i.e. ancient Egypt was long known as Mizraim, the name of one of the sons of Ham). The nations of Japheth are identified with the Oriental nations of Asia. The listing of formative nations in Genesis 10 is important because the Bible utilizes these ancient biblical names in Ezekiel 38 to describe the destinies of modern nations.

Iran (Persia) is a radical Islamic nation which has been very anti-American since the Ayatollahs overthrew the Shah. Iranian leaders refer to the United States as "the Great Satan" and the Israeli nation as "the little Satan." As this paper is being written, Iran is building nuclear facilities and European nations led by England, France and Germany have been attempting via diplomacy to motivate Iran to abandon its nuclear industry. These efforts appear to be unsuccessful. Iran obviously does not need nuclear facilities for energy as it is one of the leading nations of OPEC with large reserves of oil. This argues that the real goal of Iran is to build nuclear weapons. Media articles and reports have long identified Russia as the supplier and builder of Iran's nuclear facilities so Ezekiel 38-39's identification of Iran as a Russian ally is accurate. The United States has lobbied Russia to cease exporting its nuclear skills to the Iranians, but Russia has "stiffed" these American requests. As this paper was being written, media articles have speculated about whether the USA and/or Israel will launch a preemptive strike against Iran to prevent it from becoming a nuclear power. If this happens, Iran will crave revenge against America and be driven ever-closer into an alliance with Russia. However, since Iran is already allied to Russia via its nuclear program and is very anti-American, no preemptive strike is needed to place Iran in the Russian orbit. It is already there, exactly as Ezekiel 38 prophesied.

The next nation named as Russia's ally is "Ethiopia," translated in the *King James Version* of the Bible from the Hebrew word for "Cush." Cush's descendants do include the nation of Ethiopia in the Horn of Africa,

but they are only a small portion of Cush's descendants. Most Cushites migrated eastward toward and into the Indian subcontinent and the name of their forefather Cush is still on the "Hindu Kush" mountains along the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan. The Hindu Kush region is where Al Qaeda had its infamous terrorist training camps that were attacked by the USA in the aftermath of Al Qaeda's attack upon the USA on 9/11. This region is inhabited by tribes with much sympathy for Al Qaeda and the Taliban and it has long been rumored as a likely hiding place for Osama Bin Laden. While the USA is attempting to create a pro-Western government in Afghanistan, Islamic warlords control most of the nation.

Pakistan is another Cushite nation sharing the Hindu Kush Mountains. While Pakistan's current government is pro-Western, much of Pakistan's Islamic population is anti-American. India is a Hindu Cushite nation which is Islamic Pakistan's rival. India is a democracy and that fact would seem to argue against it becoming an enemy of the USA and the West. However, during the Cold War India was largely anti-American and much of its military equipment was imported from Russia. In recent years, India has been drawn closer to the USA and other western nations due to the outsourcing of English-speaking jobs from the USA and the rest of the English-speaking world to India. It is not clear how many of the modern Cushite nations will join Ezekiel 38's "evil alliance" headed by Russia. Ezekiel 38 specifically prophesies (as we will see) that some Cushites will not join Russia's alliance so it is not clear which Cushite nations will join Russia's alliance. India is the biggest "wild card." Future events will reveal the answer.

The next nation named in Ezekiel 38 as an ally of Russia is "Libya." The Hebrew word translated "Libya" is "Phut" or Put." Phut is a nation descended from Phut, a son of Ham (Genesis 10:6), and *Young's Analytical Concordance to the Bible* (October, 1978 Ed.) defines Phut/Libya as "...the region² W[est] from Egypt along the African coast." This describes the region which includes Libya, Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, etc. Again, as for "Cush," Ezekiel's prophecy does not specifically state "all of Phut" will join Russia's alliance, so time will tell whether all or part of this region joins Russia. Libya's Col. Khaddafi was long a very anti-American leader in Russia's orbit, but has apparently given up his nuclear program in the aftermath of the War on Terrorism. Given the prophecy in Ezekiel 38, only time will tell if Libya's move toward the West is genuine or not. Algeria has a strong

radical Islamic faction while Morocco has been friendly with the western nations.

The next nation identified as an ally in Russia's alliance is "Gomer," identified in Genesis 10:2-3 as one of the sons of Japheth. Ezekiel 38:6 refers to "Gomer *and all his bands*," indicating that Gomer will have an extremely large population and it will have many internal ethnic groups defined as "bands." The nations of Japheth are found in Oriental regions of Asia and the most populous nation is China. China is an aggressively anti-American and anti-Western nation in the modern world. It is building its military strength at a rapid rate and is perennially at odds with the USA over the issue of Taiwan. China is the largest Communist nation on the earth and while it has "loosened up" to entice western factories and investments, it is still a totalitarian nation. It is also becoming more closely allied to Russia as recent media reports have confirmed that Russia is supplying advanced weaponry to China. Russia and China have also agreed to conduct joint military exercises. Russia and China were the two heads of the world Communist alliance which opposed the USA and the West in the Cold War, and Ezekiel 38-39 reveals they will be allies in the final war of this age.

China and America Heading for Conflict:

China is preparing for an asymmetrical war against America and the West. Whether by accident or design, it has a cunning strategy to forestall American intervention in behalf of Taiwan if China attacks the pro-Western island nation. For many years, China has attracted a prodigious number of factories from America and other Western nations to its soil via the allure of cheap labor costs. The label "Made in China" is now ubiquitous for clothing, electronics, etc. for sale in America. The American government has been strangely passive as American global corporations have relocated their production facilities to China. This is a growing political issue in American elections because vast numbers of manufacturing jobs were lost when these facilities were relocated to China. *China is effectively stealing the industrial capacity of America without having to wage war to obtain it* and America has an incurable and massive trade deficit with China as a result. China has also been unusually willing to help finance America's insatiable lust for deficit spending as China has purchased immense amounts of America's Treasury debt offerings. America has benefited temporarily from this arrangement with artificially low inflation and interest rates for its domestic economy, but

China has arranged a cunning trap for a gullible America.

America is in an increasingly dangerous security situation with China. If China attacks Taiwan, America has long proclaimed that it will come to Taiwan's aid. However, China is now in a position to issue an ultimatum to America to "stay out." China's ultimatum could declare that if the USA militarily aids Taiwan, China will (A) refuse to buy any US government debt for many years, (B) it will dump all its holdings of US Treasury debt on the world markets, (C) nationalize all production facilities of all American corporations now located in China and (D) double or triple the price of all goods sold to America from these production facilities. America would face a Faustian choice. Any American president or political party who "abandoned Taiwan" (while cable-TV stories documented the slaughter of a multitude of people in Taiwan as they pleaded for US help) would be politically ruined, and America's credibility as an ally would evaporate all over the world if it abandoned Taiwan. If America abandoned Taiwan to a Chinese invasion, such nations as Japan and South Korea would have little choice but to quickly develop nuclear weapons of their own as America's credibility as a defender would become non-existent.

China has cunningly created an ability to collapse the US economy if the USA militarily helps Taiwan. China is a Communist nation which still remembers the Communist adage about capitalists being willing to sell to the Communists the very rope on which the Communists will hang the capitalist nations. China's trade and monetary policies have been designed for years to create the ability to "hang" the USA and the capitalist, Western nations in a crisis over Taiwan. On the other hand, the USA has some "high cards" of its own to play if China opts for "hardball" with the USA. Indeed, if America did not rise to meet such a possible Chinese challenge, America's superpower era would be over.

If China issues the above ultimatums to the USA, the USA can respond with these tough measures: (A) It can declare China's threat "an act of war" and declare all US Treasury debt instruments bought or held by the Chinese to be non-negotiable and forever "null and void," (B) it can place high tariffs on all Chinese goods, (C) effectively "foreclose" on nationalized US factories in China by launching hundreds of cruise missiles to destroy these facilities so the Chinese cannot use them, and (D) convert the trillion dollars or so "saved" by the voiding of all Chinese-held US debt instruments into interest-free loans to US companies to

rebuild their production facilities in the USA.

China is a growing military power and it has many missiles aimed at Taiwan. Will a military confrontation between the USA and China over Taiwan happen? While such a confrontation seems likely, it is possible that a shooting war between America and China over Taiwan will not occur. However, if it does occur, America and China will become greater enemies regardless of the outcome and a vengeful China will be drawn ever-closer to Russia. It is even possible that a war over Taiwan could become a flashpoint (or a precursor) for the world war prophesied by Ezekiel 38-39.

Financial markets and diplomats like to gloss over the worsening situation between the USA and China, but the above risks are obvious to serious observers of world geopolitics. America's self-destructive willingness to allow its critical production facilities to be effectively "stolen" by the Communist Chinese makes no sense. Why has the USA allowed this to happen? The only reason apparent to this author is that America and its western allies are trying to use economic relationships to so closely link China to America and other western nations that war between them becomes unthinkable. This policy worked well with Germany and Japan after World War 2 so it is apparently being attempted with China as well. Biblical prophecy makes it clear that this policy will fail in regards to China. China will be part of an alliance which attacks America in the latter days. Every facility America relocates to China will eventually be used against America in a future war. China will be a major ally in the Russian-led alliance of Ezekiel 38-39.

¹ Young's Analytical Concordance to the Bible, October, 1978 Edition, see word "Magog," subheading 2, p. 627

² Ibid, see "Libya," p. 601

Copyright 2005 Steven M. Collins

Editors Note:

This article in its entirety is posted on our Web Site at:

<http://darwinlauralee.150m.com>

Look in the "Literature Section". Laura Lee

AD --- Go to:

<http://darwinlauralee.150m.com> under "Web Site Links" to find Steven M. Collins' Web Site. This AD is posted as a courtesy and does not necessarily mean that we are in agreement with the views of Steven M. Collins. Darwin & Laura Lee

TO BE CONTINUED IN ISSUE #30**

THE ORACLES OF GOD

by David Ben-Ariel
Toledo, Ohio

Just what do you mean "the oracles of God?" And is the *sacred calendar* a part of them? There are only four places in the New Testament that speak of the oracles of God. Acts 7:38 reveals that Moses received "the lively oracles to give unto us."

Rom. 3:2 states, without apology, that "the oracles of God" were COMMITTED TO THE JEWS. Heb. 5:12 speaks of "the first principles of the oracles of God" and 1 Pet. 4:11 states that those whom God has gifted to speak should "speak as the oracles of God."

All of these examples use the Greek word *logion* (Strong's Concordance #3051) that means an utterance-oracle. That word comes from *logios* (#3052) that means an orator-eloquent. And that word comes from *logos* (#3056), which means something said (including the thought); a topic; the word.

The words, thoughts and topics of God *given to the Jews* (to PRESERVE for all mankind) includes "the covenants, the law, the service of God, the promises," among many other things (Rom. 9:4). How can we properly serve God without knowing His plan of salvation as revealed through His holy days? And how can we know the CORRECT DATES to observe the holy days without a SACRED CALENDAR? Besides, what other purpose is there for a calendar? (Gen. 1:14; Ex. 12:2). WHO has preserved this knowledge? The Asians? Maybe the Greeks? How about the Africans? No! Only the JEWS have kept God's sacred calendar and made us aware of it and God's holy days! Without the Jews faithfully fulfilling their commission to preserve this knowledge we would've been left in the dark! (Hos. 11:12). But GOD IS FAITHFUL who has left us a witness in every generation.

But what if some Jews weren't faithful? What if different Jewish groups were divided on these holy issues? Let God's Word answer: "For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect? God forbid: yes, LET GOD BE TRUE, but every man a liar..."(Rom. 3:3). God is quite capable of seeing that His light will shine through doctrinal darkness. After all, GOD'S WORD IS AT STAKE! Let's not limit the Holy One of Israel! God's empowered the Jews - in spite of themselves - to preserve His Word. They are the *only people* on earth that God has blessed and ordained to fulfill such a calling! God will not

retract His Word or renege on this gift and responsibility that He's graciously bestowed upon Judah! (Rom. 11:29; Num. 23:19).

In Jesus' day there were different Jewish groups at odds with each other (like Christianity today!), and Christ often publicly corrected them where they were wrong. He's done the same to His Church throughout the ages, pointing out our strengths and weaknesses (Rev. 2; 3). But Jesus clearly revealed WHICH Jewish group had GOD'S SEAL OF APPROVAL! Only the PHARISEES - of all the various splinter groups - had received the GOD-GIVEN AUTHORITY to keep/preserve/retain and teach "the oracles of God." The apostle Paul also stood with the Pharisees against the other sects (Acts 23:6). Will we accept God's Word on this subject or resist change? [Are we any better than our forefathers who clung to their vain traditions? (Acts 7:51; Mk. 7:7). We condemn ourselves and our religion when we refuse to be corrected and prefer to remain comfortable in our pews! How proud (Sodom) and stubborn (Egypt)! (Jn. 3:20; Amos 6:1; Rev. 11:8).] Jesus didn't stutter when He taught that "the scribes and PHARISEES sit in Moses' seat" (Matt. 23:2). Even so, Jesus went on to rebuke certain attitudes and practices that weren't consistent with the Scriptures, but He didn't throw the baby out with the bath water since He testified that "salvation is of the Jews!" (Jn. 3:22).

God made sure that the PHARISEES' Biblical traditions would survive and prevail. However, the faulty teachings of the Sadducees and Samaritans (whose blind dates for Passover and Pentecost God's Church shamefully follows) are history! Today the Jewish nation of Israel follows the correct holy day dates as established by the Pharisees. They don't have any question or controversy over it. On this holy topic they all "speak the same thing." And, thankfully, bold members of God's Church are beginning to see the light on this subject and are accepting God's correction and opportunity to *change*. May we embrace the "oracles of God" and overcome the obstacles of men! (Lk. 11:52).

AD --- Go to:

<http://darwinlauralee.150m.com> under "Web Site Links" to find David Ben-Ariel's Web Site. This AD is posted as a courtesy and does not necessarily mean that we are in agreement with the views of David Ben-Ariel. Darwin & Laura Lee

THE END**

JESUS PERFORMED SEVEN SABBATH MIRACLES

by Bill Bratt
Portsmouth, Ohio

Jesus performed many miracles during His ministry. Jesus was very compassionate to the people and much of His time was spent in the act of healing: "But when Jesus knew it, He withdrew from there. And great multitudes followed Him, and He healed them all (Matthew 12:15 NKJV.) Jesus did so many miracles that the Bible doesn't record them all. The last verse in the gospel of John says: "And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written (John 21:25 NKJV.)

It is interesting that the Bible records seven Sabbath miracles. The number "seven" denotes perfection and completeness. There are seven colors in the rainbow and seven notes in a musical scale. Of time it tells of the Sabbath, and marks off the week of seven days. The seven Sabbath miracles indicates a type of perfection and completeness.

Let's take a brief look at the seven miracles that Jesus performed on the Sabbath and see what we can glean from them.

Jesus Heals a Lame Man by the Pool of Bethesda

"After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. {2} Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew, Bethesda, having five porches. {3} In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water. {4} For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had. {5} Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. {6} When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be made well?" {7} The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me." {8} Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk." {9} And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the Sabbath. {10} The Jews therefore said to

him who was cured, "It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed." {11} He answered them, "He who made me well said to me, 'Take up your bed and walk.'" {12} Then they asked him, "Who is the Man who said to you, 'Take up your bed and walk?'" {13} But the one who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, a multitude being in that place. {14} Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you." {15} The man departed and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well. {16} For this reason the Jews persecuted Jesus, and sought to kill Him, because He had done these things on the Sabbath. {17} But Jesus answered them, "My Father has been working until now, and I have been working." {18} Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God (John 5:1-18 NKJV.)

Notice at this time that Jesus only healed one person out of the great multitude of sick people (Verse 3.) Notice also that Jesus told the man to do three things: "Rise, take up your bed and walk" (Vs. 8.) Jesus healed the man and he was able to rise and stand up as a healthy human being. The healed man was to pick up his bedding (bedroll) and not to leave it at the pool of Bethesda and the man was to walk. Where did the man walk to? He walked to the Temple and he probably went there to praise God for the healing of his infirmity of thirty-eight years.

While the man was walking the Jews saw him carrying his bed and they said to him: "It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed."

The Jews had their "oral law" and this law was later put in written form and is called the Mishnah. The Jews had built a hedge around the Sabbath with their "oral law" in which they were trying not to break the Sabbath. The reason they did this was two fold. Years earlier they had disobeyed God by profaning God's Sabbaths and worshiping idols and God had them carried away into the Babylonian captivity for seventy years (Ezekiel 20:23-24, Jeremiah 25:11.)

After the Babylonian captivity the Jews became very strict and did not do any idol worship from that time on. In order not to break the Sabbath the Jews created their "oral law" (Mishnah) and the largest tractate of the Seder Mo'ed deals with the Sabbath. Chapter seven has a list of thirty-nine chief kinds of work that are forbidden on the Sabbath. Some of these laws involve: sowing, plowing, reaping, baking and even

extinguishing a fire.

The Sabbath's day journey is also a part of the Mishnah. It is calculated to be two thousand cubits (approximately three thousand feet) in a radius from your dwelling place. In a straight line this distance would be doubled.

Now let's get back to the passage regarding the healed lame man. Jesus told the man to do three things: "Rise, take up your bed and walk" (Vs. 8.) These three commands were forbidden by the Jews on the Sabbath. To "rise" indicated that Jesus healed the man. Healing was forbidden on the Sabbath. Carrying your bed and walking more than a Sabbath's day journey was forbidden on the Sabbath.

Jesus healed the lame man on the Sabbath and He did it as a direct provocation of the laws that the Jews had established. Jesus did this to expand our knowledge of the Sabbath. The Sabbath is to be pleasant and positive, a time to "do good" - it is not to be a bunch of strict Pharisaical legal rules that would make the Sabbath a yoke of bondage. The Sabbath pictures freedom. Jesus healed the lame man and gave him freedom and liberty from his infirmity and affliction.

Now notice Verse 16: "For this reason the Jews persecuted Jesus, and sought to kill Him, because He had done these things on the Sabbath." Jesus was "doing good" and the Pharisees, chief priests and the scribes hated Him for it.

Verse 18 says: "Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God." Jesus did NOT break the Sabbath! He obeyed God's law and was perfect and without sin (Hebrews 4:15) and He kept the Sabbath as it should be kept. The law that was broken was the Jew's "oral law" with all of it's restrictions. The Jewish religious leaders also hated Jesus because He said that God was His Father.

Jesus Drives Out an Evil Spirit

"Then they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath He entered the synagogue and taught. {22} And they were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. {23} Now there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, {24} saying, "Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are; the Holy One of God!" {25} But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet, and come out of him!" {26} And when the unclean spirit had convulsed him and cried

out with a loud voice, he came out of him. {27} Then they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, "What is this? What new doctrine is this? For with *authority* He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him." {28} And immediately His fame spread throughout all the region around Galilee (Mark 1:21-28 NKJV.)

What did Jesus do on the Sabbath? He entered the synagogue and taught.

The Sabbath is special to Jesus because He is Lord and Master of it. "And He (Jesus) said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. {28} "Therefore the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath" (Mark 2:27-28 NKJV.) Notice that the Sabbath was made for man, not just the Jews. Jesus was the creator of all things (John 1:1-3) and He created the Sabbath and made it holy (Genesis 2:2-3.)

How did Jesus teach in the synagogue? He taught with authority.

Authority is a key word in this passage. Authority involves testimony, being an expert, having influence and power, a person in command, a governmental agency. Jesus is all of these. His testimony relates to Him being the Word of God (John 1:1-3.) By Jesus being the creator of the universe, He is an expert in all things. In this passage Jesus showed that He had power and influence over the unclean evil demonic spirit in the man. Jesus rebuked it and said: "Be quiet, and come out of him!" and the evil spirit obeyed. In the future Jesus will be the head of the earth's governmental agency as "King of kings and Lord of lords" (Revelation 17:14.)

Notice in Verse 27 that the people were amazed at Jesus' authority. Jesus has authority over all things (Ephesians 3:9) including the earthly elements of wind, water and storms (Matthew 8:27.) Jesus is our healer (Isaiah 53:5; 1 Peter 2:24) and has authority over our well being including sickness, fever and demonic spirits.

Jesus also has authority over Satan the devil. When Jesus went into the wilderness for forty days and after He was tempted by the devil three times, Jesus said: "Away with you, Satan" and the devil obeyed and left Him immediately (Matthew 4:1-11.)

Jesus Heals Peter's Mother-in-law

"Now as soon as they had come out of the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. {30} But Simon's wife's mother lay sick with a fever, and they told Him about her at once. {31} So He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and immediately the fever left her. And she served them (Mark 1:29-31

NKJV.)

Notice that Peter's mother-in-law was healed totally. She required no convalescence. Jesus had infused her to full strength enabling her to minister and serve the household.

Jesus Heals a Man with a Deformed Hand

"And He (Jesus) entered the synagogue again, and a man was there who had a withered hand. {2} So they watched Him closely, whether He would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse Him. {3} And He said to the man who had the withered hand, "Step forward." {4} Then He said to them, "Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?" But they kept silent. {5} And when He had looked around at them with *anger*, being grieved by the hardness of their hearts, He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored as whole as the other. {6} Then the Pharisees went out and immediately plotted with the Herodians against Him, how they might destroy Him (Mark 3:1-6 NKJV.)

The Pharisees, chief priests and the scribes "watched Him closely." They expected Jesus to heal this man and they wanted to accuse Him. It is hard to understand their hard core legalism against "doing good" on the Sabbath. The Jews had more love for their animals than for people who had life threatening sicknesses, afflictions and infirmities. The Jews would water their animals and help them out of a ditch on the Sabbath (Luke 13:15, 14:5), but they resented Jesus who would help people "out of a ditch" by healing them of some kind of affliction.

In Verse 4, Jesus asked: "Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?" Jesus is showing that the Sabbath is a day to love God and to love and serve your fellow man by "doing good" to your neighbor. Religion to the Jewish religious leaders was ritual, obeying rules and regulations.

Notice in Verse 5, it says that Jesus looked at them with anger because of the hardness of their hearts. This was righteous authoritarian anger. Jesus didn't get angry very often but when He did He controlled it (Mark 10:14.)

Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind

"Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. {2} And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" {3} Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, *but that the works of God should be revealed in him.* {4}

"I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. {5} "As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." {6} When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. {7} And He said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing. {8} Therefore the neighbors and those who previously had seen that he was blind said, "Is not this he who sat and begged?" {9} Some said, "This is he." Others said, "He is like him." He said, "I am he." {10} Therefore they said to him, "How were your eyes opened?" {11} He answered and said, "A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed, and I received sight." {12} Then they said to him, "Where is He?" He said, "I do not know. {13} They brought him who formerly was blind to the Pharisees. {14} Now it was a Sabbath when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. {15} Then the Pharisees also asked him again how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." {16} Therefore some of the Pharisees said, "This Man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them (John 9:1-16 NKJV.)

This is the only miracle in the gospels in which the suffering person is said to have been afflicted from his birth. There was a common belief at that time that sin caused health problems but notice what Jesus said was the real reason for the beggars' blindness: "but that the works of God should be revealed in him." Why did Jesus make clay with saliva? He probably did it to provoke the Jewish religious leaders, since they would consider Him to be working on the Sabbath. He liked to get in their faces and show them their faults and hypocrisy and calling them hypocrites (Matthew 23.)

There is a song in our hymnal called, "Stand up for Jesus" and that is exactly what the healed blind man was doing, he was witnessing for Jesus.

Jesus Heals a Crippled Woman

"Now He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. {11} And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up. {12} But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, "Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity." {13} And He laid

His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God. {14} But the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath; and he said to the crowd, "There are six days on which men ought to work; therefore come and be healed on them, and not on the Sabbath day." {15} The Lord then answered him and said, "Hypocrite! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or donkey from the stall, and lead it away to water it? {16} "So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound; think of it; for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?" {17} And when He said these things, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the multitude rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him (Luke 13:10-17 NKJV.)

Notice in Verse 16 that it was Satan who had bound this woman with her affliction for eighteen years and it was Jesus who had mercy on her and loosed her from Satan's bondage and healed her.

This passage is another example of how the Jewish religious leaders loved their animals more than their fellow brothers of Abraham (Vs. 16.)

Jesus Heals a Man with Dropsy

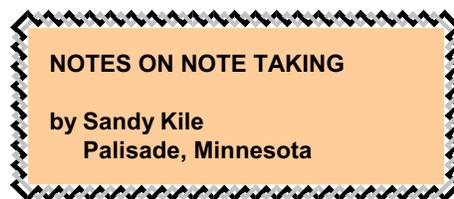
"Now it happened, as He went into the house of one of the rulers of the Pharisees to eat bread on the Sabbath, that they watched Him closely. {2} And behold, there was a certain man before Him who had dropsy. {3} And Jesus, answering, spoke to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?" {4} But they kept silent. And He took him and healed him, and let him go. {5} Then He answered them, saying, "Which of you, having a donkey or an ox that has fallen into a pit, will not immediately pull him out on the Sabbath day?" {6} And they could not answer Him regarding these things (Luke 14:1-6 NKJV.)

Why did the Pharisee invite Jesus for a Sabbath meal? Verse 1 says that it was so they could "watch Him closely." They wanted to accuse Him. Their hatred was so great that they wanted to destroy Him (Mark 3:1-6) and by false accusations and an illegal trial, they finally had Him crucified and He died on a cross (Matthew 27:35.)

In Conclusion: Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath and that makes the Sabbath the true "Lord's Day." In performing these seven Sabbath miracles, Jesus is showing us how to keep the Sabbath. He emphasized the humane element of mercy, compassion and loving-kindness by healing and "doing good" on the Sabbath. He showed us that we are not to be "hard hearted" as the Pharisees

were when it comes to the Sabbath. We need to keep the Sabbath as Jesus did by worshiping God and "doing good!"

THE END**



Remember when EVERYONE took notes in church? I do, but it seems to be a lost art nowadays. But I still do take notes. Taking notes helps me focus, keeps me alert, and if I decide I want to write about the subject of the sermon later, I have the notes right there. The other day, I ran across an article on note taking, and decided I should write about it. The article was back in the days when everyone took notes, and in a festival brochure that provided blank pages for them. It was sort of a trip down memory lane, and a good review, I re-learned some interesting things, and if note taking helps you focus, and you're interested in a refresher course here it is.

1. A heading is important. Listen carefully for the title of the sermon, or leave the top line of your paper blank, and fill in the subject after you've heard some of the sermon. Get whatever information you can about the sermon such as the speaker, and the date if possible. These things will help you in locating it later.

2. Speaking of locating, when you have nearly filled your notebook, use the last page or two as an index, writing down the title of every sermon in your book.

3. Always take down the chapter and verse of the scripture. If you don't have enough time in church, you can look it up when you get home.

4. Don't take down each scripture word for word, but try to capture its meaning by listening to what the minister is saying ABOUT it. Pay attention as to the POINTS he is trying to make, whether he is using it as an example and how, for instance.

5. Abbreviations are good to use when you're in a hurry, but make sure you know what they mean, or you may be up a creek later on.

6. Above all, try to find a balance between note taking and listening. Don't get so involved in taking notes, that you miss out on hearing the sermon. Your notes won't do you much good, if you don't know what the minister said. The notes are supposed to aid you in remembering later, not take away your focus and become the purpose for your being there.

We were really gung-ho when the article

I found was written ("How to Take Sermon Notes," (author unknown), pg. 74, Worldwide Church of God, Feast of Tabernacles [brochure], 1968, Ambassador College Press, Pasadena, California). It talks about having red and blue pencils for marking and underlining, a clip board, two or three different Bibles, and a briefcase to transport all this stuff. I had to laugh a little, because that's a little over the top, even though many of us did that. What I am suggesting is that if we just simply took notes, once again, it might help us stay more focused, alert and attentive to God's Word. And THAT is not over the top. That is how it should be. As the unknown author concluded, "use [your notes] to change your life!"

THE END**



If I were to get to know those who know you best and ask them all the questions I could think of about you, I would get to know you very well, wouldn't I? Well, then it stands to reason that if we get to know God's best friends real well, we will get to know a whole lot about God, won't we? Let's then make some observations of those that he used, each in a mighty way. I call them, "God's Dirty Dozen".

First, we have Abraham. His parents were idolaters and I'm sure as a young man, you could see him with his Watch Tower Magazine under one arm and the Pearl of Great Price book under the other, being chauffeured in his stretch limo to the nearest name-it claim-it, go-go cult of carnal hustlers in the name of Allah. And yet, god used him to emerge as the father of the chosen nation. Now we know that Joseph didn't do it. Potipher's wife knows he didn't do it. God knows he didn't do it. And we all know he didn't do it. But when Joseph filled out the application to be Prime Minister of Egypt it read, "Have you ever been convicted of a felony?" He was an ex-con with a record of being a sex offender and yet God used him in a mighty way.

Let's also remember Moses. He looked both ways, killed the Egyptian with his bare hands and then had the audacity to dig a hole and bury him in broad daylight in front of witnesses. That is a classic, premeditated, first degree murder! If that happened today, he would be on death row awaiting execution. And yet, God used him in a mighty way. And what about David? He didn't have the guts to assassinate so he

ordered a hit man to knock off Bathsheba's husband so that they could keep their torrid love affair going. David should have had a jail cell next to Moses! And yet, God used him in a mighty way. Do you really think the Priestess Rahab went around the temple genuflecting and lighting holy candles? Of course not! She was a temple prostitute that sold her body for dirty money just like any two-bit whore on the waterfront. And yet, God used her in a mighty way.

"If the children turn out bad, it must mean that the parents weren't any good!" It isn't necessarily so. There aren't any fathers that raised their sons worse than Eli and Samuel and yet God used them both in a mighty way. And have you ever heard the saying, "When the going gets tough, the tough get going"? Some Christians have turned tail and ran when the Lord needed them the most. Just like Mark did, so quickly that he left his clothing in the clutches of a cop and escaped naked. And yet, God used him in a mighty way.

Can you imagine saying, "No! I have never known this criminal named Jesus!" God forbid it would never leave my lips even in the torment of torture. But with the gentle pressure of a teenage servant girl, Peter the Rock, turned into a little pebble when he denied the Lord quicker than a New York heartbeat, not once but three times within a couple of hours. His eyes met those of his Lord and he realized the shallowness of his commitment. And yet, God used him in a mighty way.

I am blessed that Paul did not divulge to us the gruesome particulars of all the atrocities he inflicted on blameless Christians or I would be less given to read and study his Epistles. I suspect that I might forgive him but I would not forget. The captivity, injustice and even annihilation of these gentle souls might possibly raise a doubt about Paul's conversion experience. Was he beyond being saved? And yet, God used him in a mighty way.

If you have been counting, that's just ten. Including you and me, it makes an even dozen. My life was so depraved that I cursed God, shook my fist at heaven and demanded that if He existed, to kill me to end the nightmare I was living. He saved me instead that night and what about you?

"Turning lives from crime to Christ!"

THE END**

A SOBERING LOOK AT LIFE IN PRISON

by June Narber
Raleigh, North Carolina

In this modern age, prisons have evolved into the classic place to which the law in any given country, places individuals who have been convicted in a court of law of "breaking the law". Certain individuals are there for serious crimes such as murder, rape, molesting a child, or armed robbery. Others are there for lesser crimes, but crimes nevertheless, such as drug use, prostitution, theft, check forgery, and so on. Prisoners are often mistreated, subjected to physical violence, and denied the most basic of human rights, the right to worship as he/she believes.

Regardless of the crime committed and the sentence assigned to any given individual, these people are still human beings. It seems that a large part of society has forgotten that. Let me explain what I mean. I hear the phrase, "well, he deserves whatever he gets in prison." Is this true, does a man (or a woman) deserve whatever "he/she gets" in prison? What are possible scenarios that might happen to an individual in prison? I will walk you through the lives of three individuals I have had the opportunity to interview and actually visit in their given prison environment.

What acts of violence can happen to someone in prison? Violence against one's person is always a threat. This includes possibly getting hit, beaten repeatedly, kicked, thrown up against a wall, or sexual acts of violence. Maybe most of us cannot imagine having sexual advances forced upon our person, but just for a second, imagine you are a 5'8 man of medium built. All of a sudden, a man larger than you, physically forces you to the ground, rips your pants off, and sodomizes your person. The physical implications of this act are bad enough, especially if a gang rape is involved. The psychological implications are even more severe; especially if the individual has always been "straight" and has never fully mentally realized implications of homosexually related "sex acts". It can traumatize an individual. Such scenarios are not the rarity in prison; they are often the "common daily" threat against men in correctional institutions. Imagine being a young man who was in prison for repeated drug use, does he "deserve" to be raped and put at risk for a fatal illness like AIDS? Of course not. Violence breeds more violence.

Criminals can never be rehabilitated in an environment that forces them to become even more self-defensive and violence prone.

Such Satanic acts of physical violence and homosexuality are uncalled for. No human being should ever have to be subjected to a situation where these kinds of acts have risk to occur. In some cases, the threat comes from the very prison guards who are stationed there to protect and guard inmates. It is a horrid situation that would be hard for the strongest of characters to endure, let alone, to have the grace of God to be spared from such a situation.

The following stories are true. The names of the individuals have been changed to protect their privacy.

Johnny is a prisoner in the country of Thailand. He became convicted of the Sabbath about six years ago. However, only recently has he ventured to observe Sabbath regardless of the consequences. The prison system in Thailand is different from the prison system here in the United States. Prisons are not heated or air conditioned. Prisoners receive minimal food and water. They must buy any additional food they need to survive at astronomical prison inflated prices. They must also buy personal toiletries such as soap, shampoo, razors, and even toilet paper. If they do not have someone on the "outside" to bring them supplies in person, the guards sometimes take anything mailed to them and they never receive it. Johnny spent many a hot summer in his Thai prison cell. On some days, he felt like he was going to suffocate because there were no windows or even ventilation in his cellblock. Sometimes he did not even have adequate water to drink. In Thailand, an individual CAN NOT drink the public water because it is so polluted and untreated. Only bottled water and beverages can be consumed. And in prison, such bottled liquids are expensive to come by.

Human rights do not always extend to prisoners, especially in the prison Johnny was being held in. He went long periods of time without access to bathing facilities, suffered dehydration and malnutrition on an ongoing basis. His "lifeline" was the mail he received. In the beginning, Johnny wrote every religious group he could to try to get someone to send him money and supplies so he could "survive" in this prison environment. He admitted to me later during a personal interview that he had not always been sincere. He often lied in letters, professing "Jesus" as his Lord, only to trick Christians to send him things he needed. Later though, as God really began to work with him, he did become convicted of the

Sabbath. Upon my first contact with him, I did not believe he was sincere in his faith because of the several comments he made during my visit with him-including one sexually charged comment. After returning to the United States I continued to receive letters from Johnny and over the course of the next two years, I started to see some changes in the way he wrote. He stopped asking for money and supplies and started to talk more about the Bible and the laws of God, including the Sabbath. I have come to believe that he is really committed to the truths of the Bible. Today, Johnny is still in a Thai prison in the district of Bangkok. He observes Sabbath alone, however he stated in a recent letter to me, others in his prison were beginning to understand this truth of God.

Larry is a Sabbath-keeper who has been in and out of prison in the State of Texas. His crimes include drug use, sales, and possession. He is currently finishing out a six- year term. While Larry was not in prison, he was a practicing Sabbath keeper. Upon his first prison sentence, Larry stopped observing the Sabbath because it was just too miserable of an experience to endure. In the facility he was at, prison guards repeatedly beat anyone professing to be a Christian, and he got a "double portion" of the beatings and other forms of abuse because he was a Sabbath keeper. Larry supposed that the hostility was centered at the Sabbath because of the anti-Jewish atmosphere at this particular prison establishment. Had Larry risked Sabbath observance in prison, it is likely he would not be a live right now. On the other hand, Larry feels empty because he is not doing what his heart has convicted him of. He lacks the emotional support and network of support that is needed to be able to practice religious freedom in prison. What can be done to help Larry? We need to try to change prison laws and make freedom of religion mandatory under all circumstances.

Marcus is a prisoner in the western part of the United States. He was put in prison for first-degree murder. He murdered a man for the pleasure of seeing him bleed to death from the knife-inflicted wound to his chest cavity. Today, Marcus is struggling with homosexuality he developed while in prison after several sexual encounters with men. In addition, he became a practicing wiccan ("witch") while in prison. Marcus is serving a thirty-year prison sentence. However, in the letters I have read from him, I think there is a chance he will come to know the Messiah. How can I say this? He is HUNGERING after something missing in his life. He has tried just about everything except a relationship

with Yahshua (Christ). I have hopes that he will continue to ask questions about the truths of God.

As you can see through these three examples, life in prison is hard and (for two of these examples) being a Sabbath observer can be difficult. There are dozens of cases in the states of Oklahoma and Texas of individuals who are standing up "together" to claim their right to religious expression and freedom from working on God's Holy Sabbath day, Saturday.

While criminals deserve to be punished for the crimes they commit, we cannot accept that *basic human rights* are taken away from any living soul. I think more laws need to be created to protect the bodies of inmates from sexual and physical violence and laws created and ENFORCED to protect the religious freedom of every woman and man in prison systems.

What can we do to help inmates who have become convicted of the Sabbath? First of all, we can write them letters. Second, we can pray for them. Third, we can try to network with lawyers and lawmakers to try to ensure the religious freedom of every inmate in the United States. However, I caution about sending money to any prisoner.

There are parasitic individuals who continue their life of crime even while in prison by taking advantage of caring Christian individuals that want to help them. Sending someone clothes or books is one thing, but sending money is down right stupid. My motto is give people what they need, not money that they can spend any way they want. As followers of the Messiah and as Sabbath keepers, we must witness the truth to every living thing; and this includes loving individuals, and serving them. However, we must be wise stewards of what God has given us and not waste our resources.

I look forward to the day when every prison in the world will be destroyed. God's just laws will spread across the land and all will obey the will of YHWH. Those who break the law will be punished according to their crimes. Some may be put to a quick death. Our Creator will NOT tolerate the kind of prison environments that exist today, because His ways are just and as the Healer of mankind, he will heal all men's and women's hearts, souls, bodies and minds where the crimes and punishments of this age will become a faded memory. Let's pray for that day to come soon. In the meantime, let us reach out to those in prison who are seeking to do HIS will.

AD --- Go to:

<http://darwinlauralee.150m.com> under "Web Site Links" to find June Narber's Web Site. This AD is posted as a courtesy and does not necessarily mean that we are in agreement with the views of June Narber. Darwin & Laura Lee

THE END**



**KIDS
KORNER** ==
**newsletter-only-darwin-
laura@earthlink.net**

GIVING AND RECEIVING

**by Jeana Anderson
Casa, Arkansas**

My kids and I have a very special event coming up: A Giving Party. What is a giving party, you ask? I grew up with no "birthday parties" or "holiday celebrations". I can honestly say that I did not think I was missing out on any of it, and still have not looked back and think I have missed out on any of it. My parents did a very good job making sure that we were blessed all year round, spontaneously or planned, and that receiving was a reward for serving, or for good behavior, AND, receiving was not to be "expected", rather, it came in the most unexpected ways. The Holy Days played a big part in our upbringing, because those days show the most Awesome gift we can receive, from the greatest giver! There is so much greed and material thinking around us that we must do everything we can to teach our children to guard against it. A Giving Party (finally, I am answering the question) is a party we have instead of a "birthday party". We search the local area and find the needy, or the organizations that help the needy, and we have a party for them, or for individual families. Everyone that comes to the party brings donations, specified to the particular cause (no presents to my kids). My kids have the pleasure and blessing of taking the donations to the individuals or the organizations and seeing the results. It is a tremendous feeling for them and for the receivers. The parties are filled with fun and food, and sometimes the families we are helping are able to attend. This year, my son picked the local fire dept. and search and rescue dept. Everyone that came donated books or dolls/stuffed animals for the men to hand out to kids who have lost everything to

